

BY: Senator BIAGGI

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
October 4-8, 2022, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in
the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 4-8, 2022, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Malnutrition Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Malnutrition Awareness Week raises awareness of malnutrition and its negative effects on individuals and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, Experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions, thus reducing healthcare costs which can be up to \$42 billion annually for hospital stays involving malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations; these populations statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease that are also impacted by nutrition; and

WHEREAS, Malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic which has intensified disparities and social isolation; it is further compounded by food insecurity and federal legislation which has allocated supplemental funding for federal community nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, Illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

WHEREAS, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) care plans implemented by a team of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals can improve patient nutrition to support a strong recovery and help reduce risk of complications from elective surgeries; and

WHEREAS, Despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening and intervention have not been systematically incorporated across the continuum of care; and

WHEREAS, Clinical quality measures can help improve nutrition screening and intervention, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the first time has approved multiple malnutrition-specific clinical quality measures for two CMS qualified clinical data registries; and

WHEREAS, A collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors continues to be required to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition and the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update serves as a template for such collaboration; and

WHEREAS, The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN), was the first to establish a National Malnutrition Awareness Week in 2012; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of Malnutrition Awareness Week in promoting public and media attention to the seriousness of malnutrition, and for working to improve education about its causes and its treatments, as well as how to help those who are struggling with this debilitating condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 4-8, 2022, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.