

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 850

Supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 18, 2026, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Mr. MURPHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 18, 2026, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”.

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients and is a significant public health problem in the United States and around the world that can affect people across the lifespan and across geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas malnutrition can be determined by social or environmental influences, including poverty or economic instability, access to affordable health care, and low health literacy and there are inextricable and cyclical links between poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as when a person or household does not have regular, reliable access to the foods needed for good health;

Whereas communities of color, across all age groups, are disproportionately likely to experience both food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native households are at significantly greater risk for food insecurity than all households in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 18 Asian Americans and 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders experience food insecurity;

Whereas Black children are almost 3 times more likely to live in a food-insecure household than White children;

Whereas infants, children, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong effects on brain function and development;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and is associated with substantially higher healthcare costs, complications, and hospital readmissions, including over \$51,300,000,000 each year for disease-associated malnutrition in older adults;

Whereas deaths from malnutrition have more than doubled since 2018, especially among adults 85 and older;

Whereas, according to the “National Blueprint for Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2026 Up-

date”, while access to malnutrition care has greatly expanded since 2020, as many as half of older adults living in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas, according to recent Aging Network surveys, home- and community-based nutrition services can play an important role in improving health outcomes and reducing malnutrition risk among older adults; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established Malnutrition Awareness Week to raise awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the designation of “Malnutrition
3 Awareness Week”;

4 (2) recognizes the contributions of registered di-
5 etitian nutritionists and other nutrition profes-
6 sionals, health care providers, school food service
7 workers, those who provide home-delivered meals, so-
8 cial workers, advocates, caregivers, and other profes-
9 sionals and agencies working to prevent, identify,
10 and address malnutrition;

11 (3) recognizes the importance of existing Fed-
12 eral nutrition programs, like the nutrition programs
13 established under the Older Americans Act of 1965
14 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and Federal child nutrition
15 programs, for their role in providing healthy food
16 and nutrition interventions, preventing food insecu-

1 rity and malnutrition, and supporting the health and
2 well-being of people across the lifespan;

3 (4) recognizes the role of community-based or-
4 ganizations, including food banks, faith-based orga-
5 nizations, and local agencies and the need for part-
6 nerships among them and with healthcare providers
7 in preventing and addressing malnutrition in under-
8 served areas;

9 (5) recognizes the importance of access to evi-
10 denced-based nutrition care, especially for vulnerable
11 populations, including medical nutrition therapy
12 under the Medicare Program under title XVIII of
13 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

14 (6) recognizes the importance of continued Fed-
15 eral research into nutrition, dietary patterns, and
16 the human gastrointestinal microbiome and how
17 those factors influence the prevention or develop-
18 ment of chronic disease and malnutrition throughout
19 the lifespan;

20 (7) recognizes the importance of Centers for
21 Medicare and Medicaid Services facilitating the im-
22 plementation of the mandatory Malnutrition Care
23 Score, an electronic clinical quality measure for
24 adults aged 18 and older; and

1 (8) acknowledges that malnutrition affects peo-
2 ple of all ages and backgrounds, and that pre-
3 venting, identifying, and treating malnutrition can
4 reduce avoidable health care costs and complications
5 and is critical to achieving national goals related to
6 chronic disease prevention, healthy aging, and access
7 to good health for all.

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