

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 788

Designating the week of September 19 through September 23, 2022, as
“Malnutrition Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 19 through September
23, 2022, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”.

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when an individual does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas malnutrition can be driven by social determinants of health, including poverty or economic instability, access to affordable healthcare, and low health literacy;

Whereas there are inextricable and cyclical links between poverty and malnutrition;

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

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

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

Whereas infants, older adults, individuals 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 deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas, according to the “National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update”, as many as $\frac{1}{2}$ of older adults living in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas, according to recent Aging Network surveys, 76 percent of older adults receiving meals at senior centers and other congregate facilities report improved health outcomes, and 84 percent of older adults receiving home-delivered meals indicate the same;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than \$51,300,000,000 each year; and

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week of September 19
3 through September 23, 2022, as “Malnutrition
4 Awareness Week”;

5 (2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists
6 and other nutrition professionals, health care pro-
7 viders, school foodservice workers, social workers,
8 advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and
9 agencies for their efforts to advance awareness
10 about, treatments for, and the prevention of mal-
11 nutrition;

12 (3) recognizes the importance of existing Fed-
13 eral nutrition programs, such as the nutrition pro-
14 grams under title III of the Older Americans Act of
15 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) and Federal child nu-
16 trition programs, for their role in combating mal-
17 nutrition;

18 (4) supports increased funding for the critical
19 programs described in paragraph (3);

20 (5) recognizes—

1 (A) the importance of medical nutrition
2 therapy under the Medicare program under title
3 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1395 et seq.); and

5 (B) the need for vulnerable populations to
6 have access to nutrition counseling;

7 (6) recognizes the importance of the innovative
8 research conducted by the National Institutes of
9 Health on—

10 (A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the
11 human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

12 (B) how those factors influence the preven-
13 tion or development of chronic disease through-
14 out the lifespan;

15 (7) supports access to malnutrition screening
16 and assessment for all patients;

17 (8) encourages the Centers for Medicare and
18 Medicaid Services to evaluate the implementation of
19 newly-approved malnutrition electronic clinical qual-
20 ity measures; and

21 (9) acknowledges—

22 (A) the importance of access to healthy
23 food for children, especially in child care set-
24 tings and schools; and

- 1 (B) the benefits of evidence-based nutrition
- 2 standards.

