

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 371

Supporting the designation of the week of September 18 through September 22, 2023, as “Malnutrition Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2023

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

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of the week of September 18 through September 22, 2023, 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 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 communities of color, across all age groups, are disproportionately likely to experience both food insecurity and malnutrition;

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 report entitled “National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update” of the Malnutrition Quality Collaborative, as many as ½ of older adults living in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas, according to recent surveys conducted by the Aging Network—

(1) 76 percent of older adults receiving meals at senior centers and other congregate facilities report improved health outcomes; and

(2) 84 percent of older adults receiving home-delivered meals indicate improved health outcomes;

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 throughout the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

4 (2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists
5 and other nutrition professionals, health care pro-
6 viders, school food service workers, social workers,
7 advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and
8 agencies for their efforts to advance awareness
9 about, treatment for, and prevention of malnutrition;

10 (3) recognizes the importance of Federal nutri-
11 tion programs, including the nutrition programs
12 under title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965
13 (42 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) and Federal child nutrition
14 programs, for their role in combating malnutrition;

1 (4) supports increased funding for the critical
2 programs described in paragraph (3);

3 (5) recognizes—

4 (A) the importance of medical nutrition
5 therapy under the Medicare program under title
6 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395 et seq.); and

8 (B) the need for vulnerable populations to
9 have access to nutrition counseling;

10 (6) recognizes the importance of the innovative
11 research conducted by the National Institutes of
12 Health relating to—

13 (A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the
14 human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

15 (B) how the factors described in subpara-
16 graph (A) influence the prevention or develop-
17 ment of chronic disease throughout the lifespan;

18 (7) supports access to malnutrition screening
19 and assessment for all patients;

20 (8) encourages the Centers for Medicare &
21 Medicaid Services to evaluate the implementation of
22 newly approved malnutrition electronic clinical qual-
23 ity measures; and

24 (9) acknowledges the importance of access to
25 healthy food for children, especially in childcare set-

- 1 tings and schools, and the benefits of evidence-based
- 2 nutrition standards.

