

April 14, 2019

RE: Request for Declaration for Malnutrition Awareness Week September 23 – 27, 2019

To: Governor Herbert

Thank you for considering this request on behalf of the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (UAND) for an official declaration of September 23-27, 2019 as Malnutrition Awareness Week in Utah, to coincide with the national Malnutrition Awareness Week observation during that same week.

UAND is a state affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy), the world's largest association of nutrition professionals. Our Utah membership consists of 800+ registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) who are dedicated to promoting optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. You can learn more about us at [www.eatrightutah.org](http://www.eatrightutah.org). The national Academy has over 100,000 credentialed practitioners — registered dietitian nutritionists, dietetic technicians, registered, and other dietetics professionals holding undergraduate and advanced degrees in nutrition and dietetics, and students — and is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy. Learn more at [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

The Academy and UAND have partnered with the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's (ASPEN) to promote awareness of malnutrition as a chronic disease that must be treated and prevented for optimal health outcomes and improved quality of life. ASPEN is an interdisciplinary society of physicians, dietitians, nurses and pharmacists with a long-standing focus on reducing the incidence of malnutrition in hospitalized patients and raising awareness about malnutrition amongst healthcare professionals.

Since 2012, ASPEN has led a Malnutrition Awareness Week in September as a multi-organizational, multi-pronged campaign created to:

- Educate healthcare professionals to identify and treat for malnutrition earlier
- Educate consumers/patients to discuss their nutrition status with healthcare professionals
- Increase awareness of nutrition's role on patient recovery

In 2014, ASPEN received a Certificate of Special Recognition from US Senator Benjamin Cardin of Maryland for Malnutrition Awareness Week. In 2015, this award winning program became a part of the [National Health Observances Calendar](#). Today it is supported by more than 47 organizations who share our educational opportunities and messages with over 1 million healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers.

We are requesting a formal Declaration from the Governor's office of September 23-27, 2019 as Malnutrition Awareness Week in Utah. Please contact Wendy Phillips with any questions you may have in support of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Phillips*

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