

By Senator Joyner

19-00905-15

2015550\_\_

1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution celebrating the benefits of routine  
3 nutritional screening and therapeutic nutritional  
4 intervention, and recognizing September 28 to October  
5 2, 2015, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week" in Florida.  
6

7 WHEREAS, leading health and nutrition experts agree that  
8 nutritional status is a direct measure of patient health, and  
9 that good nutrition and good health allow older adults and other  
10 vulnerable individuals to continue to live in the community,  
11 avoiding the need for institutionalization in a health care  
12 facility and reducing health care costs, and

13 WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as  
14 malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in  
15 the United States, although it is particularly prevalent in  
16 vulnerable individuals, such as older adults, hospitalized  
17 patients, and minority populations, who statistically have the  
18 highest incidence of the most severe chronic illnesses, such as  
19 diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease, and

20 WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in  
21 the loss of lean body mass, which leads to complications that  
22 impact patient health outcomes, including longer recovery from  
23 surgery, illness, or disease, and

24 WHEREAS, the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and  
25 to a greater extent than younger adults, and weight assessment  
26 that takes into account body weight and body mass index may  
27 overlook indicators of lean body mass loss, and

28 WHEREAS, the American Nursing Association defines  
29 therapeutic nutrition as the administration of food and fluids

19-00905-15

2015550\_\_

30 to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is  
31 malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished, and

32 WHEREAS, despite the recognized link between good nutrition  
33 and good health, nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition  
34 treatment have not been incorporated as routine medical  
35 treatments across the spectrum of health care, and

36 WHEREAS, access to therapeutic nutrition is essential to  
37 restoring lean body mass, resolving malnutrition challenges,  
38 improving clinical outcomes, reducing health care costs, and  
39 promoting good health, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

41 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

42

43 That September 28 to October 2, 2015, is recognized as  
44 "Malnutrition Awareness Week" in Florida.