

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY REPRESENTATIVE WOODRUFF

A RESOLUTION

To designate September 28 through October 2, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, leading health and nutrition experts recognize that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health, and good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of institutionalized healthcare facilities while reducing healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition is known as malnutrition; while malnutrition is not frequently viewed as a medical concern in the United States, malnutrition is prevalent in older adults, hospitalized patients, and minority populations; such populations have the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass and can lead to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, such complications include surgery recovery, illness, or disease; elderly adults lose lean body mass at a faster rate and to a greater extent than younger adults; and

WHEREAS, the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition defines malnutrition in adults as a condition in which adult patients lack adequate calories, protein, or other nutrients necessary for tissue maintenance and repair; pediatric malnutrition is defined as an imbalance in infants and children between nutrient requirement and intake, this imbalance results in cumulative deficits of energy, protein, or micronutrients that may negatively affect growth, development, and other relevant outcomes; and

WHEREAS, therapeutic nutrition is defined as the administration of food and fluids to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is malnourished or is at a high risk of becoming malnourished; and

WHEREAS, despite the link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment are not incorporated as medical treatments in healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition and other state and local organizations support access to therapeutic nutrition as an essential element in restoring lean body mass, resolving malnutrition challenges, improving clinical outcomes, reducing healthcare costs, and promoting good health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate September 28 through October 2, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the state of Louisiana and does hereby recognize the benefits of routine nutrition screening and therapeutic nutritional intervention.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES