September was the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Spotlight on Malnutrition Month. October 5–9 was Malnutrition Awareness Week™ (MAW) which is an annual, multi-organizational campaign created by the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN).

The 2020 actions were incredible—the map highlights what we are aware of and there are likely more. Many states, cities, government agencies, and the National Lieutenant Governors Association passed proclamations/resolutions, there were successful educational webinars and lots of social media action (#MAW2020), and the U.S. Senate passed S.Res.716 via unanimous consent!

The local, state and federal resolutions recognized the serious crisis of malnutrition in the United States and offered support for concrete ideas to address malnutrition, including supporting dietitians and other nutrition care professionals, increasing funding for federal nutrition programs, and recognizing the importance of medical nutrition therapy, nutrition research, malnutrition screening, and malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures.

Many actions also called attention to the disparate impact of malnutrition on older Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic.