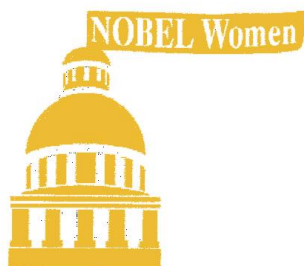


# *NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK ELECTED LEGISLATIVE WOMEN*



## **Resolution on Malnutrition**

Whereas, leading health and nutrition experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition and good patient health can keep people healthy and out of institutionalized health care facilities thus reducing healthcare costs;

Whereas, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in the US, and that malnutrition is particularly prevalent in certain US groups, such as older adults, hospitalized patients or minority populations that statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney, and cardiovascular disease;

Whereas, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and to a greater extent than younger adults and weight assessment (body weight and body mass index) can overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass;

Whereas, access to therapeutic nutrition, defined as the use of specific nutrients, disease specific nutrition products, and complete and balanced oral nutrition supplements, is critical in restoring lean body mass such that it resolves malnutrition challenges and, in turn, improves clinical outcomes, reduces health care costs and can keep people and our communities healthy;

Whereas, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment have not been incorporated as routine medical treatment across the spectrum of healthcare;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOBEL-Women supports and encourages states that provide Medicaid coverage to incorporate the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as to include nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOBEL-Women supports the increased emphasis on nutrition for healthy aging by including nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment via the Older Americans Act reauthorization, as well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their disease management and health outcomes; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED , NOBEL-Women, is encouraged that preventive and wellness services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease management, is part of the essential benefits package included in the healthcare reform act and strongly supports that nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment be part of the essential benefits package, as well.

**SPONSOR: Senator Mattie Hunter (IL)**

**Ratified: June 22, 2012**

**Ratification is certified by: Senator Sharon Weston Broome (LA), President**