

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life as a critical factor to early brain growth, development of the central nervous system, and lifelong mental health; and
- Whereas,** the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition published a field-leading consensus paper defining pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) as impaired oral intake that is not age-appropriate and is associated with medical, nutritional, feeding skill, and/or psychosocial dysfunction; and
- Whereas,** according to a national prevalence study published in the Journal of Pediatrics, conservative evaluations estimate that more than 1 in 37 children under the age of 5 and more than 1 in 5 children with a chronic disease experience severe PFD in the United States annually; and
- Whereas,** every bite of food for children with PFD can be painful, scary, or simply impossible to swallow, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being; and
- Whereas,** families navigating pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) often feel isolated and overwhelmed, struggling to overcome the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to PFD; and
- Whereas,** raising awareness for pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) will help create a world in which children with PFD will thrive by accelerating identification, igniting research, and promoting collaborative care and support for children and families.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2023* as:

Pediatric Feeding Disorder Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

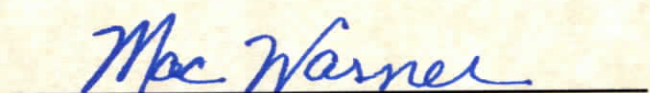
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State