State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

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, pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) is defined as impaired oral intake that is not age-appropriate and is associated with medical, nutritional, feeding skill, and/or psychosocial dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 2.3 million children under the age of five in the United States, including 34,000 children in the Palmetto State, experience severe PFD annually; and

WHEREAS, every bite of food can be painful, scary, or simply impossible to swallow for children with PFD, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being; and

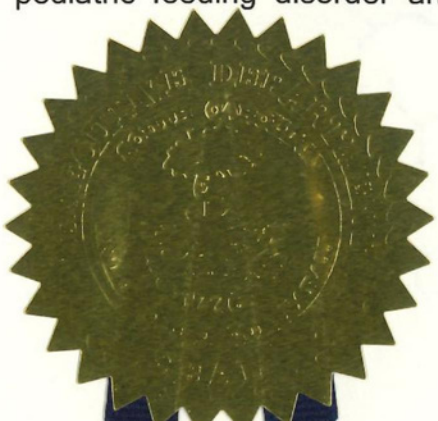
WHEREAS, families navigating PFD can feel isolated and overwhelmed in the struggle to overcome the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to the disorder; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of PFD can lead to earlier detection, increased research, improved treatments, and a better quality of life for children and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 2020 as

PFD AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about pediatric feeding disorder and recognize the children and families if affects.



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA