



***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 one in 37 children under the age of five, and more than one in five 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 PFD often feel isolated and overwhelmed, struggling to overcome the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to PFD; and,*

***WHEREAS**, raising awareness helps create a world where children with PFD will thrive by accelerating identification, igniting research, and promoting collaborative care and support for children and families;*

***THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as **PFD Awareness Month**, and invite all Illinoisans to learn more about PFD and to support the efforts to improve the system of care through advocacy, education, support, and research.*

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



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this SIXTH day of APRIL, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-ONE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and THIRD.

Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR