

# 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, the 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 one in thirty-seven 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 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 May 2022 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 it affects.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

**HENRY McMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**