



EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

On Behalf of the Residents of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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 PFD often feel isolated and overwhelmed with the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to PFD, and raising awareness for 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, I, STEUART L. PITTMAN, County Executive, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as PFD AWARENESS MONTH in Anne Arundel County, and call upon all of our residents to learn more about PFD and to support efforts to improve the system of care through advocacy, education, and research. Given Under My hand and the Great Seal of Anne Arundel County this 1st Day of May in the Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty Three.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart L. Pittman".

STEUART L. PITTMAN

County Executive

May 1, 2023

