

# The State of Washington



## 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**, 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, frightening, or simply impossible to swallow, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being; and

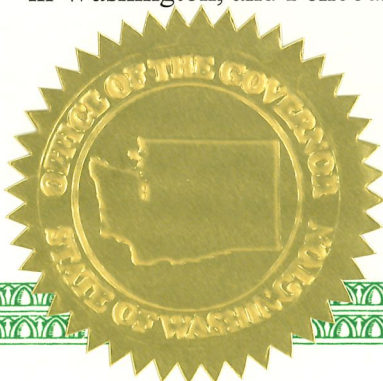
**WHEREAS**, families navigating pediatric feeding disorder (PFD) often feel isolated and overwhelmed, struggling to overcome the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to PFD; and

**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;

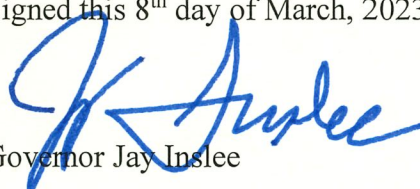
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 to be

### *Pediatric Feeding Disorder Awareness Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

  
Governor Jay Inslee