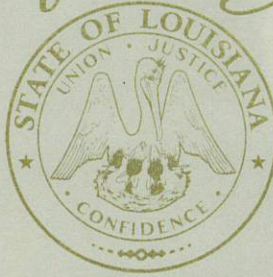


Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

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, scary, 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, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

PFD AWARENESS MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of May A. D., 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

