



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PFD AND ARFID AWARENESS MONTH

**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:** The DSM-5-TR defines Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) as an eating or feeding disturbance as manifested by persistent failure to meet appropriate nutritional/and or energy needs associated with one (or more) of the following: significant weight loss (or failure to achieve expected weight gain or faltering growth in children); significant nutritional deficiency; dependence on enteral feeding or oral nutritional supplements; marked interference with psychosocial functioning; and

**WHEREAS:** Studies from non-clinical samples reported ARFID prevalence estimates ranging from .3% to 15.5%; and

**WHEREAS:** Every bite of food for children with PFD and ARFID can be painful, scary, or simply impossible to swallow, potentially impeding nutrition, development, growth, and overall well-being; and

**WHEREAS:** Families navigating PFD and ARFID often feel isolated and overwhelmed, struggling to overcome the medical, emotional, financial, educational, and social issues related to PFD and ARFID; and

**WHEREAS:** Raising awareness for PFD and ARFID will help create a world in which children with PFD and ARFID will thrive by accelerating identification, igniting research, and promoting collaborative care and support for children and families; now

**THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2026, as PFD AND ARFID AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



ATTEST

The signature of Lauren M. Curry, Chief of Staff to the Governor.

CHIEF OF STAFF

The signature of Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia.

GOVERNOR