

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- 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 percent to 15.5 percent; 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.

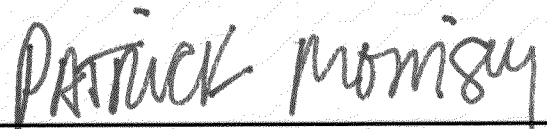
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

PFD & ARFID Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First Day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State