

Aroclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH MAY 2009

Millions of individuals and their family members are facing the challenges of living with Celiac Disease; and WHEREAS,

Celiac Disease is a lifelong autoimmune intestinal disorder, found in individuals who are genetically susceptible. WHEREAS, People with the disease cannot tolerate certain proteins (gluten) found in common cereal grains such as wheat,

barley and rye; and

When a person with Celiac Disease eats foods containing these proteins, their immune system responds by WHEREAS,

damaging the small intestine, which can lead to malnourishment. If left untreated, this damage can be chronic and

life-threatening; and

Researchers at the University of Maryland's Center for Celiac Research have determined that Celiac Disease affects WHEREAS,

1 in 133 Americans and is now considered to be the most common genetic disorder in the world; and

Research indicates that there are approximately 2,500,00 people with celiac disease in the Untied States, yet only WHEREAS,

approximately 120,000 of those have been diagnosed; and

Celiac Disease Awareness Month provides an opportunity to recognize individuals and their families whose lives WHEREAS,

have been affected by this disease, honor dedicated health professionals and researchers, and to raise public

awareness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2009 as CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in

Maryland, and do commend this celebration to all of our

citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, 1st day of Two Thousand and nine

Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION

<u>BY</u> MAYOR SHEILA DIXON

DESIGNATING MAY

AS "CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH"

IN BALTIMORE

- **WHEREAS**, millions of individuals and their family members are facing the challenges of living with Celiac Disease; and
- WHEREAS, Celiac Disease is a lifelong autoimmune intestinal disorder found in individuals who are genetically susceptible; people with the disease cannot tolerate certain proteins found in common cereal grains such as wheat, barley, and rye; and
- WHEREAS, when a person with Celiac Disease eats foods containing these proteins, their immune system responds by damaging the small intestine, which can lead to malnourishment; if left untreated, this damage can be chronic and life-threatening; and
- WHEREAS, researchers at the University of Maryland's Center for Celiac Research have determined that Celiac Disease affects 1 in 33 Americans, and it is now considered to be the most common genetic disorder in the world; research indicates that there are approximately 2.5 million people with Celiac Disease in the U.S., yet only approximately 120,000 of those have been diagnosed; and
- **WHEREAS,** Celiac Disease Awareness Month provides an opportunity to recognize individuals and their families whose lives have been affected by this disease, honor dedicated health professionals and researchers, and raise public awareness.

I, SHEILA DIXON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, do hereby proclaim May as "CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH" IN BALTIMORE, and do urge all citizens to join in this observance while educating themselves on this important issue.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore to be affixed this first day of May, two thousand nine.

Sherla Digran