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I want to personally welcome you to the **Celiac Disease Foundation's 2020 Virtual Turkey Trot!**

It's an honor to be part of this annual event sponsored by the Celiac Disease Foundation (CDF), headquartered in Woodland Hills. With dedicated volunteers across the United States, CDF is the nation's leading patient advocacy organization for celiac disease and has invested millions of dollars in the three focus areas of research, education, and advocacy.

Celiac disease is a serious, genetic autoimmune disease from which an estimated 3 million Americans suffer, but only about 20% have been diagnosed. When someone with celiac disease ingests gluten, it triggers an immune reaction which damages the intestines, with the potential for 200 or more symptoms. Though thought of as a gastrointestinal disorder, celiac disease can lead to serious extra-intestinal health issues like heart disease and cancer. There is no cure for this disease, and the only treatment is following a lifelong adherence to a strict gluten-free diet. Unfortunately, for 30-50% of patients with celiac disease, even this has proven to be ineffective in controlling symptoms.

That is why your participation in this event—and support for the Celiac Disease Foundation—is so important to advance the Foundation's work to fund research, education, and advocacy. CDF is actively working with the federal National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advocate for additional research funding targeted to celiac disease.

Across the local communities of my district in the west San Fernando Valley and beyond, everyone can show their support by registering for the 2020 Virtual Turkey Trot. Now more than ever, your support is greatly appreciated as many nonprofits struggle. To support the Celiac Disease Foundation, a local nonprofit with a national reach, and to support efforts to find a cure for celiac disease, please register for the annual Turkey Trot today!

Sincerely,

Jesse Gabriel
Assistant Majority Whip
Assemblymember, 45th District