

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, celiac disease, a genetic autoimmune disease, is a serious chronic condition affecting an estimated 3 million men, women and children in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, celiac is an inherited disorder that affects the digestive process of the small intestine. When a person who has celiac disease consumes gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley, the individual's immune system responds by attacking the small intestine and inhibiting the absorption of important nutrients into the body; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 people have been diagnosed with celiac disease and it is estimated that 95 percent of Americans with celiac disease remain undiagnosed; and,

WHEREAS, the length of time for an adult to be diagnosed with celiac disease is 6 years from the onset of symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, delays in diagnoses of celiac disease are costing the health care system millions of dollars; and,

WHEREAS, failure to diagnose celiac disease can lead to the onset of other autoimmune disorders including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, and Sjögren's syndrome, as well as osteoporosis, infertility, neurological conditions, and in rare cases, cancer; and,

WHEREAS, 12 percent of persons with type 1 diabetes have celiac disease; and,

WHEREAS, individuals with Down Syndrome are at increased risk of having celiac disease; and,

WHEREAS, 30 percent of new diagnosed celiacs are over the age of 60; and,

WHEREAS, 50 percent of men diagnosed with celiac disease will have iron deficiency anemia; and,

WHEREAS, gluten sensitivity, a condition on the celiac spectrum, affects approximately 18 million people in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, 10 percent of people with celiac disease suffer from an associated neurological conditions such as peripheral neuropathy and ataxia; and,

WHEREAS, the only known treatment for celiac disease is strict adherence to a gluten-free diet; and,

WHEREAS, the United States has no regulatory standard for the term 'gluten-free' and no regulations governing the labeling of products as 'gluten-free'; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of a standard for gluten-free foods and labeling of products places poses ongoing health risks to persons with celiac disease; and,

WHEREAS, increased recognition and awareness of celiac disease will have a significant positive impact on the quality of life of people with celiac disease:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2011 as **CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois.

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



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this FIFTH *day of* MAY *, in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
ELEVEN*, and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR