

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 153 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY DALLY, BAKER, BEYER, BRENNAN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, MCCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, MUSTIO, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, STEVENSON, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO AND WATSON, MARCH 17, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 17, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2009 as "Celiac Disease Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is an autoimmune digestive disease
4 that damages the villi of the small intestine and interferes
5 with absorption of nutrients from food; and

6 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is triggered by consumption of the
7 protein called gluten, which is found in wheat, barley and rye;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, When people with celiac disease eat foods containing
10 gluten, their immune system responds by damaging the fingerlike
11 villi of the small intestine; and

12 WHEREAS, When the villi become damaged, the body is unable to
13 absorb nutrients into the bloodstream, which can lead to
14 malnourishment; and

WHEREAS, Celiac disease is also known as celiac sprue,
nontropical sprue and gluten-sensitive enteropathy; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have determined that celiac disease is a
genetic condition, meaning that it is inherited; and

WHEREAS, In some cases, celiac becomes active or is triggered
by events such as surgery, pregnancy, childbirth, viral
infection or severe emotional stress; and

WHEREAS, Roughly one out of every 133 Americans has celiac
disease, but 97% remain undiagnosed, which means that almost
three million Americans have celiac disease and only about
100,000 know they have it; and

WHEREAS, Left untreated, people with celiac disease can
develop further complications, such as other autoimmune
diseases, osteoporosis, thyroid disease and cancer; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of medical problems that are
associated with undiagnosed celiac disease, including cancer,
osteoporosis, diabetes Type 1, thyroid problems and reproductive
health issues; and

WHEREAS, The only treatment for celiac disease is a lifelong
gluten-free diet; and

WHEREAS, A gluten-free diet means avoiding all foods that
contain wheat, including spelt, triticale, kamut and rye; and

WHEREAS, Despite these restrictions, people with celiac
disease can eat a well-balanced diet with a variety of foods,
including bread and pasta. For example, instead of wheat flour,
people can use potato, rice, soy or bean flour. Or, they can buy
gluten-free bread, pasta and other products from specialty food
companies; and

WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth should be aware
of celiac disease and its treatment; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of April 2009, as "Celiac Disease Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.