

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 97

Reps. Hope, Sowerby, Love and Gay-Dagnogo offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 13-19, 2019, as Celiac Disease
2 Awareness Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Celiac Disease Awareness Week begins May 13, 2019,
4 and is designed to raise public awareness of this serious and
5 incurable condition; and

6 Whereas, The disease causes inflammation in the small
7 intestine and it interferes with the proper absorption of
8 nutrients; and

9 Whereas, If left untreated, celiac disease permanently damages
10 the small intestine and can also lead to malnutrition,
11 osteoporosis, infertility, miscarriage, seizures, and neuropathy;
12 and



1 Whereas, According to the Celiac Disease Foundation, persons
2 with celiac disease are twice as likely to have coronary artery
3 disease and are four times as likely to develop cancer,
4 specifically intestinal lymphoma or cancer of the small intestine;
5 and

6 Whereas, Celiac disease often co-occurs with other serious
7 autoimmune conditions, including Type I diabetes, thyroid disease,
8 microscopic colitis, Addison's disease, and rheumatoid arthritis;
9 and

10 Whereas, The only way to manage celiac disease is to
11 completely avoid gluten, which is found not only in many foods
12 containing wheat or other grains, but also in medications and
13 personal care products. For this reason, accidental exposure to
14 gluten is common in celiac patients; and

15 Whereas, Maintaining a strict gluten-free diet can cause some
16 persons with celiac disease to become socially isolated as food is
17 often the centerpiece of parties, meetings, and other social
18 events. Those diagnosed with celiac disease should consult with a
19 dietitian and may find benefit in social support groups; and

20 Whereas, As a result of the week of May 13, 2019, being
21 recognized as Celiac Disease Awareness Week throughout Michigan,
22 more citizens will have conversations about their current state of
23 health, more healthcare providers will learn more about celiac
24 disease, and the public will understand why it is important for
25 persons with celiac disease to remain completely gluten free; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
28 this legislative body declare May 13-19, 2019, as Celiac Disease
29 Awareness Week in the state of Michigan. We call this observance to

1 the attention of all our citizens.