

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96

Reps. Koleszar, Hood, Ellison, Bolden, Pohutsky, Young, Breen, Steenland, Aiyash, Allor, Bezotte, Cherry, Garza, Haadsma, Hope, Morse, Rogers, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Thanedar, Whitsett and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 2021 as Celiac Awareness Month in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder that results
4 in damage to the lining of the small intestine when a person eats
5 foods with gluten; and

6 Whereas, Gluten is a form of protein found in some grains,
7 including wheat, rye, and barley, which individuals living with
8 celiac disease need to avoid; and

9 Whereas, The damage to the intestine makes it hard for the
10 body to absorb nutrients, especially fat, calcium, iron, and

1 folate; and

2 Whereas, Celiac disease is estimated to affect one in 133
3 people in the United States; and

4 Whereas, Eighty-three percent of the people with celiac
5 disease remain undiagnosed and at risk for long-term health
6 complications; and

7 Whereas, Common symptoms of celiac disease include severe
8 abdominal pain, severe skin rash called dermatitis herpetiformis,
9 iron deficiency anemia, musculoskeletal problems, muscle cramps,
10 seizures, tingling sensation in the legs, and depression; and

11 Whereas, Celiac disease can leave a person susceptible to
12 additional health problems, including osteoporosis, miscarriage,
13 infertility, growth problems in children affected by the disease
14 because they do not absorb enough nutrients, and cancers of the
15 digestive system; and

16 Whereas, People who have celiac disease may have other
17 autoimmune diseases, including thyroid disease, type I diabetes,
18 Crohn's disease and colitis, and juvenile arthritis; and

19 Whereas, Some people with celiac disease have so much damage
20 to their intestines that a gluten-free diet will not improve their
21 condition, and these patients may need to receive nutritional
22 supplements intravenously; and

23 Whereas, Maintaining a gluten-free diet can be a difficult
24 change, as gluten is found in some products in which gluten is not
25 naturally occurring; and

26 Whereas, Gluten is found in most processed foods, but it is
27 also used in nonedible products such as lipsticks, vitamins, and
28 medications; and

29 Whereas, Gluten-free food touching the same surface as gluten-

1 containing food can cause cross-contamination that can be dangerous
2 for someone with celiac disease by triggering celiac disease
3 symptoms; and

4 Whereas, Approximately 70 percent of people with celiac
5 disease remain exposed to gluten while on the gluten free diet,
6 putting their long-term health at risk.

7 Whereas, Awareness for celiac disease has grown significantly
8 in recent years; and

9 Whereas, The development of new gluten-free food products has
10 made it much easier for people with celiac disease to expand their
11 dietary options; and

12 Whereas, Labeling of gluten-free products makes shopping
13 easier for people with celiac disease; and

14 Whereas, Gluten-free restaurants, gluten-free menus, and the
15 education of food handlers regarding celiac disease have given
16 people living with celiac disease safer options for dining out; and

17 Whereas, There is still much work to be done to properly
18 educate restaurants, food handlers, retailers, and the public about
19 celiac disease and about how to properly handle and prepare gluten-
20 free products; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
22 this legislative body declare May 2021 as Celiac Awareness Month in
23 the state of Michigan.