

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96

Reps. Koleszar, Hood, Ellison, Bolden, Pohutsky, Young, Breen and Steenland 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  
11 folate; and

12       Whereas, Celiac disease is estimated to affect one in 133

1 people in the United States; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27       Whereas, Gluten-free food touching the same surface as gluten-  
28 containing food can cause cross-contamination that can be dangerous  
29 for someone with celiac disease by triggering celiac disease

1 symptoms; and

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

5       Whereas, Awareness for celiac disease has grown significantly  
6 in recent years; and

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

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

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

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

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