
Introduced by Senator Huff

(Coauthors: Senators Dutton, Fuller, and Harman)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Block, Blumenfield, Donnelly,
Fletcher, Jeffries, Portantino, and Williams)

February 1, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7—Relative to celiac disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 7, as introduced, Huff. Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2011 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month to promote statewide awareness of celiac disease.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is a genetic autoimmune disease
2 that affects one in 133 people in the United States; and
3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 million Americans have celiac
4 disease, yet 97 percent of these cases are undiagnosed and the
5 average delay in diagnosis is nine years; and
6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that first degree relatives of people
7 with celiac disease have a one in 22 chance of developing celiac
8 disease and second degree relatives have a one in 39 chance; and
9 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is triggered by consumption of the
10 protein gluten, which is found in foods that contain wheat, rye, or
11 barley; and
12 WHEREAS, When a person with celiac disease consumes food
13 containing gluten, an immune reaction occurs in their small
14 intestine that damages the tiny projections, called villi, that line

1 the intestinal wall and prevents them from effectively absorbing
2 nutrients; and

3 WHEREAS, If left untreated, celiac disease can lead to
4 malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies, loss of calcium, osteoporosis,
5 lactose intolerance, infertility, certain forms of cancer, and
6 neurological complications; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no cure or known cause for celiac disease,
8 and the only treatment is close adherence to a gluten-free diet so
9 that the intestine may heal; and

10 WHEREAS, Celiac disease affects an equal percentage of men
11 and women and can occur in people of all ages; and

12 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is more commonly found in people
13 who have autoimmune thyroid disease, Down syndrome, and
14 microscopic colitis; and in diagnosed type I diabetics, 8 to 10
15 percent also have celiac disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is associated with autoimmune
17 disorders such as lupus, Addison's disease, rheumatoid arthritis,
18 Turner syndrome, Sjögren's syndrome, and liver disease, and other
19 disorders such as Williams syndrome, Down syndrome, and
20 fibromyalgia; and

21 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Celiac Disease
22 Foundation provide support to people with celiac disease through
23 awareness, education, advocacy, and research programs and
24 provide scholarships to celiac children to attend gluten-free summer
25 camps; and

26 WHEREAS, Increased awareness of celiac disease will
27 positively impact the lives of those with the disease and promote
28 early detection in children so that they can be started on a
29 gluten-free diet; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
32 month of May 2011 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month and
33 wishes to promote statewide awareness of celiac disease; and be
34 it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the Celiac Disease Foundation and to the author
37 for appropriate distribution.

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