

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 21, 2011

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 8, 2011

## Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 7

**Introduced by Senator Huff**

**(Coauthors: Senators Dutton, Fuller, and Harman)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Block, Blumenfield, Donnelly, Fletcher, Gorell, Huffman, Jeffries, Portantino, *Wagner*, and Williams)

February 1, 2011

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 7, as amended, 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

1 WHEREAS, When a person with celiac disease consumes food  
2 containing gluten, an immune reaction occurs in their small  
3 intestine that damages the tiny projections, called villi, that line  
4 the intestinal wall—and, which prevents them from effectively  
5 absorbing nutrients; and

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is more commonly found in people  
16 who have autoimmune thyroid disease, Down syndrome, and  
17 microscopic colitis. In diagnosed type I diabetics, 8 to 10 percent  
18 also have celiac disease; and

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

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

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

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

1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
2 this resolution to the Celiac Disease Foundation and to the author  
3 for appropriate distribution.

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