

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 7

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 19

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

[Filed with Secretary of State May 23, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 7, 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.

WHEREAS, Celiac disease is a genetic autoimmune disease that affects one in 133 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 3 million Americans have celiac disease, yet 97 percent of these cases are undiagnosed and the average delay in diagnosis is nine years; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that first-degree relatives of people with celiac disease have a one in 22 chance of developing celiac disease and second-degree relatives have a one in 39 chance; and

WHEREAS, Celiac disease is triggered by consumption of the protein gluten, which is found in foods that contain wheat, rye, or barley; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Celiac Disease Foundation provide support to people with celiac disease through awareness, education,

advocacy, and research programs and provide scholarships to celiac children to attend gluten-free summer camps; and

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

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

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