

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 73**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Baker**

May 14, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 73—Relative to Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 73, as introduced, Baker. Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize May 2015 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is a digestive and autoimmune  
2 disorder that results in damage to the lining of the small intestine  
3 when a person eats foods with gluten; and  
4 WHEREAS, Gluten is a form of protein found in some grains,  
5 including wheat, rye, barley, and oats, which individuals living  
6 with celiac disease need to avoid; and  
7 WHEREAS, The damage to the intestine makes it hard for the  
8 body to absorb nutrients, especially fat, calcium, iron, and folate;  
9 and  
10 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is estimated to affect one in 100  
11 people worldwide; and  
12 WHEREAS, An estimated 2.5 million Americans who have  
13 celiac disease remain undiagnosed and at risk for long-term health  
14 complications; and  
15 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of celiac disease include severe  
16 abdominal pain, severe skin rash called dermatitis herpetiformis,

1 iron deficiency anemia, musculoskeletal problems, muscle cramps,  
2 seizures, tingling sensation in the legs, and depression; and

3 WHEREAS, Celiac disease can leave a person susceptible to  
4 additional health problems, including osteoporosis, miscarriage,  
5 infertility, risk of birth defects during pregnancy, growth problems  
6 in children affected by the disease because they do not absorb  
7 enough nutrients, and cancers of the digestive system; and

8 WHEREAS, People who have celiac disease may have other  
9 autoimmune diseases, including thyroid disease, type I diabetes,  
10 lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis; and

11 WHEREAS, Some people with celiac disease have so much  
12 damage to their intestines that a gluten-free diet will not improve  
13 their condition, and these patients may need to receive nutritional  
14 supplements intravenously; and

15 WHEREAS, Maintaining a gluten-free diet can be a difficult  
16 change, as gluten is found in some products in which gluten is not  
17 naturally occurring; and

18 WHEREAS, Gluten is found in most processed foods, but it is  
19 also used in nonedible products such as lipsticks, vitamins, and  
20 medications; and

21 WHEREAS, Gluten-free food touching the same surface as  
22 gluten-containing food can cause cross-contamination that can be  
23 dangerous for someone with celiac disease by triggering celiac  
24 disease symptoms; and

25 WHEREAS, Awareness for celiac disease has grown  
26 significantly in recent years; and

27 WHEREAS, The development of new gluten-free food products  
28 has made it much easier for people with celiac disease to expand  
29 their dietary options; and

30 WHEREAS, Labeling of certified gluten-free products makes  
31 shopping easier for people with celiac disease; and

32 WHEREAS, Gluten-free restaurants, gluten-free menus, and  
33 the education of food handlers regarding celiac disease have given  
34 people living with celiac disease safer options for dining out; and

35 WHEREAS, Much progress has been made in recent years to  
36 educate people about celiac disease and identify ways to improve  
37 their quality of life; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
39 *thereof concurring*, That May 2015 be recognized as Celiac Disease  
40 Awareness Month; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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