

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 73

Introduced by Assembly Member Baker

May 14, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

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

This measure would recognize May ~~2015~~ 2016 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is ~~a digestive~~ and *an* 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, *and* 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

1 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of celiac disease include severe
2 abdominal pain, severe skin rash called dermatitis herpetiformis,
3 iron deficiency anemia, musculoskeletal problems, muscle cramps,
4 seizures, tingling sensation in the legs, and depression; and

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

10 WHEREAS, People who have celiac disease may have other
11 autoimmune diseases, including thyroid disease, type I diabetes,
12 ~~lupus, and rheumatoid~~ *Crohn's disease and colitis, and juvenile*
13 arthritis; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Gluten is found in most processed foods, but it is
22 also used in nonedible products such as lipsticks, vitamins, and
23 medications; and

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

28 WHEREAS, Awareness for celiac disease has grown
29 significantly in recent years; and

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

33 WHEREAS, Labeling of ~~certified~~ gluten-free products makes
34 shopping easier for people with celiac disease; and

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

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

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring*, That May-~~2015~~ 2016 be recognized as Celiac
3 Disease Awareness Month; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O