

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 12, 2016

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

**No. 73**

### **Introduced by Assembly Member Baker**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Arambula, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

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 amended, Baker. Celiac Disease Awareness Month.  
This measure would recognize May 2016 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder that  
2 results in damage to the lining of the small intestine when a person  
3 eats foods with gluten; and

4 WHEREAS, Gluten is a form of protein found in some grains,  
5 including wheat, rye, and barley, which individuals living with  
6 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,  
17 iron deficiency anemia, musculoskeletal problems, muscle cramps,  
18 seizures, tingling sensation in the legs, and depression; and

19 WHEREAS, Celiac disease can leave a person susceptible to  
20 additional health problems, including osteoporosis, miscarriage,  
21 infertility, growth problems in children affected by the disease  
22 because they do not absorb enough nutrients, and cancers of the  
23 digestive system; and

24 WHEREAS, People who have celiac disease may have other  
25 autoimmune diseases, including thyroid disease, type I diabetes,  
26 Crohn's disease and colitis, and juvenile arthritis; and

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

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

34 WHEREAS, Gluten is found in most processed foods, but it is  
35 also used in nonedible products such as lipsticks, vitamins, and  
36 medications; and

37 WHEREAS, Gluten-free food touching the same surface as  
38 gluten-containing food can cause cross-contamination that can be  
39 dangerous for someone with celiac disease by triggering celiac  
40 disease symptoms; and

1 WHEREAS, Awareness for celiac disease has grown  
2 significantly in recent years; and

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

6 WHEREAS, Labeling of gluten-free products makes shopping  
7 easier for people with celiac disease; and

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

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

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That May 2016 be recognized as Celiac Disease  
16 Awareness Month; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
18 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.