

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 246

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Celiac Awareness Month, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN,
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mrs. MALONEY) submitted the fol-
lowing resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and
Commerce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Celiac Awareness
Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas celiac disease, a genetic autoimmune disease, affects
3,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas 200,000 people have been diagnosed with celiac dis-
ease;

Whereas 95 percent of people in the United States with celiac
disease remain undiagnosed;

Whereas the length of time for an adult to be diagnosed with
celiac disease is 6 years from the onset of symptoms;

Whereas delays in diagnosis of celiac disease are costing the
health care system millions of dollars;

Whereas failure to diagnose celiac disease can lead to the onset of other autoimmune disorders including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, and Sjögren's syndrome;

Whereas 12 percent of persons with type 1 diabetes have celiac disease;

Whereas individuals with Down Syndrome are at increased risk of having celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is a serious chronic condition that affects men, women, and children;

Whereas 30 percent of new diagnosed celiacs are over the age of 60;

Whereas 50 percent of men diagnosed with celiac disease will have iron deficiency anemia;

Whereas gluten sensitivity, a condition on the celiac spectrum, affects approximately 18,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas 10 percent of people with celiac disease suffer from an associated neurological condition such as peripheral neuropathy and ataxia;

Whereas the only known treatment for celiac disease is strict adherence to a gluten-free diet;

Whereas the United States has no regulatory standard for the term "gluten-free" and no regulations governing the labeling of products as "gluten-free";

Whereas the lack of a standard for gluten-free foods and labeling of products poses ongoing health risks to persons with celiac disease;

Whereas the 2004 NIH Consensus Development Conference on Celiac Disease found that consultation with a skilled dietitian and identification and treatment of nutritional

deficiencies were key elements in the management of celiac disease;

Whereas the consensus panel further recommended the standardization of serologic tests and pathologic criteria for the diagnosis of celiac disease, the adoption of a standard definition of a gluten-free diet based on objective evidence such as that being developed by the American Dietetic Association, and the development of an adequate testing procedure to determine the amount of gluten in foods and of a definition of standards for gluten-free foods in the United States to lay the foundation for rational food labeling; and

Whereas National Celiac Disease Awareness Month is celebrated in May: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Celiac Awareness Month;

4 (2) recognizes that awareness of celiac disease
5 will have a significant positive impact on the quality
6 of life of people with celiac disease;

7 (3) recognizes the importance of improving di-
8 agnosis rates, through increasing education about
9 celiac disease; and

10 (4) supports working toward an eventual cure
11 for celiac disease through increased research and
12 treatment.

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