
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 474 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, TOOHL, DRISCOLL, BURNS, MACKENZIE,
HENNESSEY, MURT, BAKER, BIZZARRO, RYAN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,
DUSH, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, FREEMAN, MARSICO,
McNEILL, CAUSER, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, READSHAW AND ROZZI,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 13, 2017, as "National Celiac Disease
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Celiac disease affects approximately 3 million
4 people in the United States, representing 1 in every 133 people;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The average length of time it takes for a
7 symptomatic individual to be diagnosed with celiac disease in
8 the United States is four years; and

9 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is an inherited autoimmune disorder
10 that attacks the small intestine during the digestive process
11 when an individual consumes gluten; and

12 WHEREAS, As a result, celiac disease inhibits the absorption
13 of important nutrients into the body; and

14 WHEREAS, Gluten is found in foods, medications and vitamins
15 that contain wheat, barley, rye and oats; and

16 WHEREAS, In order to lessen inflammation in the small

1 intestine, individuals with celiac disease must maintain a
2 gluten-free diet; and

3 WHEREAS, There are more than 200 known symptoms of celiac
4 disease, including abdominal bloating and pains, diarrhea,
5 nausea, weight loss and fatigue; and

6 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is diagnosed by blood tests that
7 measure the blood for abnormally high levels of antibodies and
8 genetic tests for the presence of human leukocyte antigens; and

9 WHEREAS, A study to determine the prevalence of celiac
10 disease determined that 60% of children and 41% of adults
11 diagnosed during the study did not show symptoms of the disease;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis of celiac disease is important
14 because it may prevent complications derived from the disease;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, If left undiagnosed and untreated, celiac disease
17 can lead to the development of other autoimmune disorders such
18 as osteoporosis, infertility, neurological conditions and cancer
19 in certain circumstances; and

20 WHEREAS, There is an increased incidence of celiac disease in
21 families with a known history of the disease because it is
22 passed genetically; and

23 WHEREAS, The only known treatment for celiac disease is
24 lifelong adherence to a strict gluten-free diet; and

25 WHEREAS, September 13 has been designated "National Celiac
26 Disease Awareness Day" in honor of the doctor who identified the
27 link between celiac disease and diet, Dr. Samuel Gee, who was
28 born on September 13, 1839; and

29 WHEREAS, It is important that this Commonwealth support
30 efforts to diagnose individuals with celiac disease at an early

1 stage and raise awareness of celiac disease; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
3 September 13, 2017, as "National Celiac Disease Awareness Day"
4 in Pennsylvania and acknowledge all Pennsylvanians living with
5 celiac disease.