

Date of Hearing: June 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 179 (Niello) – As Introduced May 18, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 32-0

SUBJECT: Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Recognizes May 2026 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder that results in damage to the lining of the small intestine when a person eats foods with gluten. Gluten is a form of protein found in some grains that individuals living with celiac disease need to avoid, including wheat, rye, and barley.
- 2) Celiac disease is estimated to affect 1 in 100 people worldwide. An estimated 2.5 million Americans who have celiac disease remain undiagnosed and at risk for long-term health complications.
- 3) Common symptoms of celiac disease include severe abdominal pain, severe skin rash called dermatitis herpetiformis, iron deficiency anemia, musculoskeletal problems, muscle cramps, seizures, tingling sensation in the legs, and depression.
- 4) Celiac disease can leave a person susceptible to additional health problems, including osteoporosis, miscarriage, infertility, growth problems in children affected by the disease because they do not absorb enough nutrients, and cancers of the digestive system.
- 5) People who have celiac disease may have other autoimmune diseases, including thyroid disease, type 1 diabetes, Crohn's disease and colitis, and juvenile arthritis.
- 6) Some people with celiac disease have so much damage to their intestines that a gluten-free diet will not improve their condition, and these patients may need to receive nutritional supplements intravenously.
- 7) Maintaining a gluten-free diet can be a difficult change, as gluten is found in some products in which gluten is not naturally occurring.
- 8) Awareness for celiac disease has grown significantly in recent years. Labeling of gluten-free products makes shopping easier for people with celiac disease. Progress has been made to educate people about celiac disease and identify ways to improve their quality of life.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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