

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** celiac disease is one of the world's most prevalent genetic autoimmune diseases, affecting an estimated three million Americans, 70-80% of whom are undiagnosed; and
- Whereas,** celiac disease causes the body to attack its own small intestine, which can lead to many other devastating health conditions, including cancer; and
- Whereas,** celiac disease results in extraordinary economic and productivity costs to both the public and private sectors from employee and student absenteeism, as well as repeated, inconclusive visits to healthcare providers; and
- Whereas,** on average, it takes four years to be correctly diagnosed with celiac disease; and
- Whereas,** there is no medication or cure for celiac disease—the only treatment is a lifelong, strict gluten-free diet; and
- Whereas,** studies show that up to 50% of people on a gluten-free diet continue to experience symptoms and have intestinal damage, revealing the ineffectiveness of the gluten-free diet as a treatment; and
- Whereas,** the Celiac Disease Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and health of individuals with celiac disease by advancing government support for biomedical research to develop diagnostic tools, life-improving treatments, and a cure for celiac disease, and to raising public awareness of this serious disease.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2023* as:

### *Celiac Disease Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State