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