



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- 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 4 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 diagnostics, treatments, and a cure for celiac disease, and to raise public awareness of this serious disease; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2026, as CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 14th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Laura M. Curry

CHIEF OF STAFF