

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Celiac disease is a genetic disorder affecting  
3 children and adults; celiac disease can affect one in every  
4 133 Americans; this makes celiac disease twice as common as  
5 Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and cystic fibrosis  
6 combined; and

7 WHEREAS, People with celiac disease are unable to eat  
8 foods that contain gluten, which is found in wheat, rye, and  
9 barley; these grains are used as ingredients in many foods,  
10 or are processed into other ingredients that in turn are  
11 included in foods; and

12 WHEREAS, In people with celiac disease, eating gluten  
13 sets off an autoimmune reaction that causes damage to the  
14 small intestine; untreated celiac disease can be life  
15 threatening and has been linked to an increased risk of  
16 certain types of cancer, especially non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;  
17 it can lead to growth failure in children, and it is known to  
18 cause osteoporosis, anemia, infertility, and depression in  
19 adults; and

20 WHEREAS, The only known treatment for celiac disease is  
21 adherence to a strict, life-long, gluten-free diet; current  
22 labeling laws do not adequately address the needs of persons  
23 with celiac disease or food allergies; because gluten is a  
24 binding protein, it can be used in many food products, which  
25 would make them unsafe for people with celiac disease to eat;  
26 food processors do not define gluten the same as the medical  
27 community, therefore, a person with celiac disease might not  
28 recognize some ingredients as containing gluten when reading  
29 a food label; individuals with celiac disease must go to  
30 great lengths to determine if a product is safe for their  
31 consumption; therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we urge the United States Congress to pass legislation  
3 regarding the labeling of food products containing gluten and  
4 other known allergins in order to address the needs of those  
5 with celiac disease and food allergies; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to  
7 each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.