

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** celiac disease is one of the world's most prevalent genetic autoimmune diseases, affecting an estimated three million Americans, 70-80 percent 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 percent 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.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

Celiac Disease Awareness Month

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

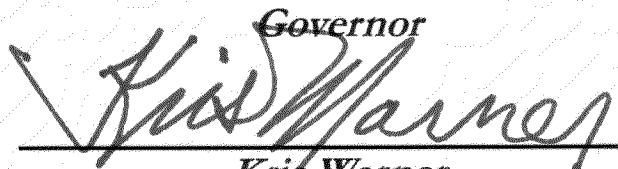
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third of the State.



Patrick Morrisey

Governor



Kris Warner

Secretary of State