



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:**

Celiac disease, a genetic autoimmune disease, affects 3 million people in the United States, while 95% of Americans with the disease remain undiagnosed and the length of time for an adult to be diagnosed with the disease is six years from the onset of symptoms; and

**WHEREAS:**

Failure to diagnose celiac disease can lead to the onset of other autoimmune disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus, and Sjögren's syndrome, while delays in diagnosis are costing the health care system millions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS:**

Celiac disease is a serious chronic condition that affects men, women, and children of all ages, with persons with Type 1 diabetes and individuals with Down syndrome having an increased risk of having the disease; and

**WHEREAS:**

While the only known treatment for celiac disease is strict adherence to a gluten-free diet, the United States has no regulatory standard for the term 'gluten-free' and no regulations governing products as 'gluten-free,' and the lack of a standard for gluten-free foods and labeling of products places ongoing health risks to persons with celiac disease; and

**WHEREAS:**

Increased recognition and awareness of celiac disease will have a significant, positive impact on the quality of life of people living with gluten sensitivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim May, 2011:

### CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE