

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH MAY 1-31, 2026

WHEREAS, celiac disease is one of the world's most prevalent genetic autoimmune diseases, affecting an estimated 3 million Americans, 60% to 70% 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 to repeated, inconclusive visits to health care 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, awareness and education is needed to improve the quality of life and health of individuals with celiac disease and increase support for biomedical research to develop diagnostic tools, life-improving treatments and a cure for celiac disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
May 1-31, 2026, CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE