

# STATE OF MONTANA



## *Governor's Proclamation*



*WHEREAS, celiac disease is one of the world's most prevalent genetic autoimmune diseases, affecting an estimated three million Americans, a majority 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, 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 research and to raise public awareness of this serious disease;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim May 16, 2024*

### **CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS DAY**

in Montana to increase understanding and awareness of celiac disease.

**GREG GIANFORTE**  
Governor