

H.R.4917, the Food Labeling Modernization Act of 2021

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Background

- ➔ Celiac disease is a serious, genetic autoimmune disorder in which ingesting gluten causes damage to the villi of the small intestine. The only treatment is the total elimination of gluten-containing foods, including wheat, barley, and rye sources.
- ➔ Adapting to a strict, gluten-free diet is a complex process, where lack of compliance significantly affects mortality, including a 6x greater risk from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and a 4x greater risk from small bowel cancer.
- ➔ The current Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act does not require ingredients that contain gluten to disclose this on the food label.
- ➔ Gluten-containing grains appear under more than a dozen different names on food labels that do not disclose the presence of wheat, rye or barley, causing consumer confusion.

Food Labeling Modernization Act (H.R.4917)

- ➔ The Food Labeling Modernization Act (FLMA) of 2021 will align labeling regulations with the latest nutrition science and advance national public health priorities through food labeling policies aimed at:

- Encouraging reformulation
- Countering misleading claims
- Providing information online
- Revealing new health information

- ➔ This legislation will require disclosure of gluten-containing grains (wheat, barley, and rye) in the "Contains" statement and/or ingredient list on food labels to protect people with celiac disease. Currently, wheat is the only gluten-containing grain required to be disclosed in the "Contains" statement.
- ➔ This labeling will allow concerned consumers to know, for example, that the malt syrup in their food contains barley.
- ➔ For the more than 3 million Americans living with celiac disease, that small distinction is an important one.

Support Organizations

- ➔ Celiac Disease Foundation, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumer Reports, Environmental Working Group, Beyond Celiac, Gluten-Free Watchdog, Gluten Intolerance Group, National Celiac Association

Contact

- ➔ For more information about this legislation, please contact Stephen.Holland@mail.house.gov.