



Press Release
For Immediate Release
July 1, 2009

CSA Joins Forces to Promote Wellness and Health Reforms on Capitol Hill-2009

Legislative issues abound concerning celiac disease. CSA recently joined in support with 22 other autoimmune disease organizations urging primary prevention education in the approaching Health Reforms initiatives to save lives and health care dollars being spent on totally preventable diseases. The efforts of support for this reform initiative was directed by CSA partner of autoimmune diseases, Thelma King Thiel, chair and CEO of the Hepatitis Foundation International. CSA partnered through the national Prevention and Wellness Coalition, contacting the Honorable US Senators Ted Kennedy, Michael Enzi and Tom Harkin, along with Richard Hamburg and Jeffrey Levi from the *Trust for America's Health* urging support of this wellness and prevention legislation.

CSA continues to work to support prevention and wellness efforts, which are key to reducing costs within a reformed health care system. CSA is in agreement that this legislation on wellness, encouraging wellness be the centerpiece of the healthcare reform effort underway on Capitol Hill. CSA is dedicated to promoting this wellness campaign, as individuals seek answers in living with celiac disease, promoting and focusing on prevention through early diagnosis.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D, former Director of the National Institutes of Health, states "the four P's of future medicine are Predictive, Personal, Preemptive and Participatory." This philosophy summarizes, in a capsule, the philosophy of CSA regarding lifestyle changes required when diagnosed with celiac disease. CSA endorses the concept of support for primary prevention education from Pre K through higher education in the Health Reform proposals.

The mission of CSA is "Celiacs Helping Celiacs," striving to educate the CSA membership and individuals with celiac disease in a change of lifestyle. CSA encourages efforts to improve health care for individuals with celiac disease and CSA joins in collaborating to engage the public in managing their own healthcare and wellness.



June 16, 2009

The Honorable Senator Tom Harkin
US Senate
Washington, DC

RE: Letter of Support by Celiac Sprue Association for the Wellness and Prevention Legislation

Dear Senator Harkin,

The Celiac Sprue Association (CSA) is a member based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis through support, education and research. CSA is pleased to join in support of the June 9, 2009 letter to your office by Thelma King Thiel on behalf of the Hepatitis Foundation International, urging you to include primary prevention education in the Health Reform initiatives to save lives and health care dollars being spent on totally preventable diseases.

We applaud your work supporting prevention and wellness efforts, which are key to reducing costs within a reformed health care system. CSA is in agreement that this legislation on wellness must be the centerpiece of the healthcare reform effort underway on Capitol Hill. CSA is dedicated to promoting this wellness campaign as individuals seek answers in living with celiac disease, promoting and focusing on prevention through early diagnosis.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D, former Director of the National Institutes of Health, states "the four P's of future medicine are Predictive, Personal, Preemptive and Participatory" summarizing in a capsule the philosophy of CSA regarding lifestyle changes when diagnosed with celiac disease. CSA endorses the concept of support for primary prevention education from Pre K through higher education in the Health Reform proposals.

The mission of CSA is "Celiacs Helping Celiacs," striving to educate the CSA membership and individuals with celiac disease in a change of lifestyle. CSA thanks you for your dedication to improving health care for all Americans. Your passion and work on this legislation is to be admired. CSA joins you in collaborating to engage the public in managing their own healthcare and wellness and wishes you success in this health care reform and legislation based on prevention.

In good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary A. Schluckebier".

Mary A. Schluckebier
Executive Director, CSA

CC: The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The Honorable Michael Enzi
The Honorable Ben Nelson
The Honorable Mike Johanns
The Honorable Lee Terry
The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Richard Hamburg at "Trust for America's Health"
Thelma King Thiel, Hepatitis Foundation International