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Food Allergy Awareness Week

Whereas, An allergic reaction can occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient they are allergic to; and,

Whereas, Each year, over 50,000 visits to the emergency room and 150 deaths are direct results of an allergic reaction to food; and,

Whereas, It is estimated that approximately 12 million Americans have food allergies, with children being the largest group affected; and,

Whereas, Reactions or symptoms to food allergies include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and,

Whereas, Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction involving major organs in the body simultaneously and, for some, can cause death in a matter of minutes; and,

Whereas, Eight foods are responsible for 90 percent of all food-related allergic reactions; these foods are shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; and,

Whereas, Eating in a restaurant or at school poses the highest risk for people with food allergies since most waiters and cafeteria staff are not aware of the ingredients used to prepare the food they serve; and,

Whereas, It is the goal of the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, a national nonprofit organization, to educate the public about food allergies and anaphylaxis and how to properly respond when an allergic reaction occurs;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of May 9, 2010, Food Allergy Awareness Week in Michigan. I urge all citizens to recognize the importance of understanding food allergies and to take extra precautions when handling food.

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