

THE FASTER ACT OF 2026

Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research Act of 2026
Sponsored by Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13) | H.R. 9988, 119th Congress

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Celiac disease is a serious autoimmune disease and food allergy triggered by eating gluten, found in wheat, barley, rye, and most oats. People with celiac disease “face serious, and even potentially life-threatening illnesses if they eat gluten... There is no cure for celiac disease and the only way to manage the disease is to avoid eating gluten.” ([FDA](#))

- Gluten ingestion for people with celiac disease can cause anemia, cancer, heart disease, immunological scarring, intestinal damage, and malnutrition. There is no rescue medication for accidental ingestion, and one cannot outgrow celiac disease.
- **41.2% of adults and 37.6% of children with celiac disease who follow a strict gluten-free diet get “glutened” once a month.** ([Celiac Journey & Beyond Celiac](#))
- In total, an estimated 26.2 million Americans have some type of food allergy or intolerance to gluten: 3.3 million with celiac disease, 20 million with gluten intolerance, 2.4 million with an IgE-mediated wheat allergy with potential cross-reactivity to barley, rye, and oats, and 0.5 million with eosinophilic esophagitis.
- 87 other countries require the labeling of gluten-containing grains (wheat, barley, rye and oats), including in Canada, in the United Kingdom and across the European Union.
- Since 2006, U.S. law has required labeling only of wheat as a “Major Food Allergen.” Barley, rye, and oats are not subject to the same requirement and often remain hidden.

HOW DOES THE BILL SOLVE THIS?

To close this gap the FASTER Act will:

1. **Require ALL gluten-containing grains (wheat, barley, rye, and oats) to be labeled as “Major Food Allergens”** on all packaged foods.
2. Ensure transparency, since barley, rye, and oats are hidden in seasonings and flavors, not declared by common name, buried in fine print and not called out as allergens.
3. Direct HHS to report on celiac diagnostics, prevention, treatment, and research.

FOX NEWS NATIONAL POLL: FOOD LABELING TOPS THE LIST

- 81% believe increasing transparency in food labeling is important.
- 91% favor requiring clearer food labeling.
- 89% believe it is extremely or very important for the government to focus on improving food safety.
- 57% of Democrats, 58% of Republicans, and 62% of Independents prioritize health and well-being over lowering prices.

Source: [Fox News poll](#) of 1,002 registered voters randomly selected from a national voter file, June 12–15, 2026, MOE: ±3% pts.