

Date of Hearing: March 9, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 154 (Patterson) – As Introduced March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: California Down Syndrome Awareness Week and Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims March 15, 2026, to March 21, 2026, inclusive, as California Down Syndrome Awareness Week and March 21, 2026, as California Down Syndrome Day; and, encourages all Californians to support and participate in related activities. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Down syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that occurs in one out of every 700 to 1,000 births and affects all races and ethnicities.
- 2) Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.
- 3) Down syndrome causes delays in physical and intellectual development; and, can also cause additional medical problems, including, but not limited to, heart defects, hearing problems, vision impairment, upper respiratory infections, and intestinal and thyroid problems.
- 4) Adequate access to health care, early intervention programs, and inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of individuals with Down syndrome.
- 5) Individuals with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them, have meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society in many wonderful ways.
- 6) The National Buddy Walk Program helps raise awareness and funds for programs that benefit people with Down syndrome and their families, and the Special Olympics raises awareness and allows individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities to discover new strengths and abilities, skills, and success.
- 7) In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day to be observed every year beginning in 2012, and invited all to observe World Down Syndrome Day in order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome.
- 8) The 21st day of the third month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.
- 9) The inherent dignity and worth of persons with Down syndrome, their valuable contributions as promoters of well-being and diversity of their communities, and the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices, should be recognized.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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