

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
ACR 154 (Patterson)
As Introduced March 2, 2026
Majority vote

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.

Major Provisions

- 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.

COMMENTS**According to the Author**

Down Syndrome is the most common chromosomal disorder, affecting about 1 in every 700 children. Although it is a lifelong condition, and can have various health impacts, my experience has shown that individuals with Down Syndrome have a lot to teach us all, including that they can be active contributors to society. I will continue to bring forward this resolution to bring more awareness to the incredible people who have this condition.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES**ASM RULES: 10-0-0**

YES: Pacheco, Lackey, Ahrens, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Zbur

UPDATED

VERSION: March 2, 2026

CONSULTANT: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800

FN: 0002301