
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 41
Author: Patterson (R), et al.
Introduced: 2/24/25
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: California Down Syndrome Awareness Week and Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims the week of March 16, 2025, to March 22, 2025, inclusive, as California Down Syndrome Awareness Week and March 21, 2025, as California Down Syndrome Day, and encourages all Californians to support and participate in related activities.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) 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. The 21st day of the third month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.
- 2) Down syndrome is a chromosomal disorder that occurs in one out of every 700 to 1,000 births. Down syndrome 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.

This resolution states that the week of March 16, 2025, to March 22, 2025, inclusive, is proclaimed California Down Syndrome Awareness Week, and March 21, 2025, is proclaimed California Down Syndrome Day.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 148 (Joe Patterson and Grayson, Resolution Chapter 52, Statutes of 2024)

ACR 26 (Joe Patterson, Grayson, Lackey, and Mathis, Resolution Chapter 34, Statutes of 2023)

HR 54 (Vince Fong, 2023) – Adopted by the Assembly.

ACR 160 (Mathis and Grayson, Resolution Chapter 40, Statutes of 2022)

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/28/25)

The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/28/25)

None received

Prepared by: Aizenia Randhawa / SFA / (916) 651-1520

4/2/25 15:50:17

**** **END** ****