

Date of Hearing: March 9, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
HR 83 (Nguyen) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes the month of March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and, salutes the self-advocates and their families who are critical to informing every element of this system, as well as the state, of their perspectives, goals, and desires, providing an authentic and lived experience to shape how people with developmental disabilities are served. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) March is recognized nationwide as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which honors the progress in, and opportunities for, supporting community life for people with developmental disabilities.
- 2) In 1965, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 691 of the 1965 Regular Session, authored by Assembly Member Waldie, with two pilot regional centers opening in 1966 to provide community services to people with developmental disabilities, which was expanded statewide in 1969 as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act).
- 3) Through the Lanterman Act, the state has empowered people with developmental disabilities to lead lives of greater inclusion and self-direction in communities of their choosing for nearly 60 years.
- 4) Those disabilities are defined as autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and conditions that are either closely related to, or require similar services as, intellectual disability, and significantly impact the life of the individual.
- 5) The Lanterman Act now benefits over 430,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Regional centers across the state and their frontline service coordinators are lifelong connections to services that make having a good quality of life possible.
- 6) The daily lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families are founded on the work of direct support professionals and over 40,000 service providers. Regional centers and service providers continue to develop new and existing modes of service that are culturally competent.
- 7) People with developmental disabilities, including self-advocates, are the most important drivers of change in our system, which prioritizes individuals' self-expressed needs, interests, and goals.
- 8) The ways in which people with developmental disabilities thrive in the community are changing and expanding, including through the federal Home and Community-Based Services Final Rule, the Self-Determination Program, competitive integrated employment, and person-centered service modalities.

**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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