
THIRD READING

Bill No: SR 89
Author: Alvarado-Gil (R), et al.
Introduced: 3/17/26
Vote: Majority

SUBJECT: Profound Autism Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day in California, and urges all citizens to support efforts to increase research, improve services, and ensure the dignity and care of individuals living with profound autism.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The term “autism” was first coined in 1911 by psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler, and later refined in 1943 by Dr. Leo Kanner, whose landmark work identified behaviors distinct from other mental disorders and established a foundation for autism-specific research.
- 2) In 2021, the Lancet Commission formally introduced the designation of “profound autism” to describe individuals who require care and assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week with daily activities, providing families and clinicians with a vital tool to advocate for those with the most intensive needs.
- 3) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2023 that 26.7% of eight-year-old children identified with autism spectrum disorder meet the criteria for profound autism.
- 4) Despite their significant needs, a 2019 study revealed that only 6% of clinical autism research studies included participants with profound autism, leaving a critical gap in medical and behavioral understanding.
- 5) In 2025, 15 states across the nation recognized Profound Autism Day to foster awareness and support for individuals with severe, high-needs autism.

This resolution recognizes March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day in California, and urges all citizens to support efforts to increase research, improve services, and ensure the dignity and care of individuals living with profound autism.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/23/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/23/26)

None received

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3/25/26 16:15:10

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