

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Resolution No. 59 (Rivas) - Stuttering Awareness
2 Week]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Resolution No. 59, introduced by**
4 **Assembly Member Robert Rivas, to designate the week of May 8 through May 13, 2023,**
5 **as 2023 Stuttering Awareness Week.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Across the country the second week of May is recognized as Stuttering
8 Awareness Week; and

9 WHEREAS, Stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by repetition of sounds,
10 syllables, or words, prolongation of sounds, and interruptions in speech; and

11 WHEREAS, It is estimated about one percent of the world’s population stutters and
12 roughly three million Americans stutter; and

13 WHEREAS, Organizations dedicated to bringing hope and empowerment to children
14 and adults who stutter through support, education, and advocacy, have locations in San
15 Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, Paul Castellano and Barbara Hubbard Koval, organized the drive to win
17 Congressional recognition for people who stutter, and in 1988 President Ronald Reagan
18 signed a proclamation establishing the second week in May 1988 as National Stuttering
19 Awareness Week; and

20 WHEREAS, Many stutterers suffer frustration and embarrassment that can lead to
21 harmful emotional stress; and

22 WHEREAS, Stuttering is a form of verbal diversity and should be recognized as simply
23 a different way of speaking; and

24 WHEREAS, When stuttering continues into adulthood, a person may have difficulty
25 communicating with other people and stuttering may affect a person’s quality of life,

1 interpersonal relationship, job opportunities, and professional growth; and

2 WHEREAS, During Stuttering Awareness Week, Proud Stutter Podcast seeks
3 to raise awareness about communication disorders and the many ways that people with the
4 daily challenges of stuttering can be supported; and

5 WHEREAS, Proud Stutter and stuttering advocates partnered with the San Francisco
6 Board of Supervisors to unanimously pass a Resolution declaring the City's first annual
7 Stuttering Awareness Week in 2022, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
8 No. 220520, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, San Franciscans who stutter appeared in stories featured in the San
11 Francisco Examiner, 48Hills, and KQED around Stuttering Awareness Week and stuttering
12 pride; and

13 WHEREAS, By recognizing the stuttering community, advocates and public officials
14 can draw attention to the needs, shine a light on these often invisible disabilities, and help
15 avoid the negative consequences of misunderstanding stuttering; and

16 WHEREAS, Many years of public advocacy campaigns, personal experiences, and
17 individuals or groups acting as informal ambassadors, have raised the awareness of both
18 speech disabilities and stuttering; and

19 WHEREAS, This involves awareness not only of individuals but also unique individual
20 needs and contributions; and

21 WHEREAS, As these campaigns have become more common, so too has public
22 awareness and acceptance; and

23 WHEREAS, The opportunity for full inclusion and community membership is the next
24 step in progress San Francisco must make to not only fully support and welcome the voices of
25 people who stutter but to also show their voices are needed; and

1 WHEREAS, A growing number of families in San Francisco have a family member with
2 a stutter and know that inclusion is a crucial element for their loved ones' future success; and

3 WHEREAS, This will increase and encourage public participation at the local and state
4 government level; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby supports Assembly
6 Resolution, Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) No. 59 (Rivas) to designate the week of
7 May 8, through May 13, 2023, as 2023 Stuttering Awareness Week in California; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will work to
9 support the stuttering community at the local, regional and state level and will encourage
10 residents of San Francisco to participate in California's Stuttering Awareness Week activities;
11 and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and
13 County of San Francisco transmit a copy of this Resolution to San Francisco's State
14 Legislative Delegation, City and County of San Francisco State Lobbyist, California Governor
15 Gavin Newsom and the Bill's primary sponsor Assembly Member Robert Rivas.