

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 59**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Robert Rivas**

April 13, 2023

---

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to stuttering awareness week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 59, as introduced, Robert Rivas. Stuttering Awareness Week.

This measure would designate the week of May 8, 2023, to May 13, 2023, inclusive, as 2023 Stuttering Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Stuttering is a speech dysfluency characterized by  
2 repetition of sounds, syllables, or words, prolongation of sounds,  
3 and interruptions in speech; and

4 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 1 percent of the world’s  
5 population stutters and roughly 3,000,000 Americans stutter; and

6 WHEREAS, Organizations dedicated to bringing hope and  
7 empowerment to children and adults who stutter through support,  
8 education, and advocacy have locations throughout California;  
9 and

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

15 WHEREAS, Many stutters feel frustration and embarrassment  
16 that can lead to harmful emotional stress; and

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

3 WHEREAS, When stuttering continues into adulthood, a person  
4 may have difficulty communicating with other people and stuttering  
5 may affect a person's quality of life, interpersonal relationships,  
6 job opportunities, and professional growth; and

7 WHEREAS, During National Stuttering Awareness Week, many  
8 seek to raise awareness about communication disorders and the  
9 many ways that people with the daily challenges of stuttering can  
10 be supported; and

11 WHEREAS, By recognizing these challenges we can draw  
12 attention to the needs of persons who stutter, shine a light on these  
13 often invisible disabilities, and help avoid the negative  
14 consequences of misunderstanding stuttering; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Raising awareness of speech disabilities and  
20 stuttering involves awareness not only of individuals but also  
21 unique individual needs and contributions; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Progress towards awareness and acceptance is to  
25 be both celebrated and built upon; and

26 WHEREAS, The opportunity for inclusiveness is the next logical  
27 step in the progress California must make to not only fully support  
28 and welcome the voices of people who stutter but to also show  
29 their voices are needed; and

30 WHEREAS, A growing number of families in California have  
31 a family member with a stutter and know that inclusion is a crucial  
32 element for their loved ones' future success; and

33 WHEREAS, This proclamation will increase and encourage  
34 public participation at the local and state government level; now,  
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims the  
38 week of May 8, 2023, to May 13, 2023, inclusive, as 2023  
39 Stuttering Awareness Week and encourages all Californians to  
40 support the stuttering community; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O