



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEMORANDUM

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TO: Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District

FROM: Vicente Sarmiento, Supervisor Second District

DATE: February 23, 2026

Subject: **Presentation Item for March 24, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting**

OFFICE OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Doug Chaffee

Vicente Sarmiento

Supervisor Sarmiento requests a presentation be added to the agenda for the March 24, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting. The title should read:

Supervisor Sarmiento will be presenting a resolution recognizing the month of March as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month,” which celebrates and promotes awareness the contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

By the authority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the following resolution is hereby issued:

WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, an annual campaign led by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and partners to highlight the inclusion, contributions, and potential of people with developmental disabilities, focusing on removing societal barriers and fostering inclusive communities; and

WHEREAS, Developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language or behavior areas, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Attention-Deficit/hyperactivity disorder, learning or intellectual disabilities, hearing loss, vision impairment; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme is “The Power of Support,” the continued emphasis on support that has made a difference in individuals’ lives through inclusion, community, and breaking down barrier to ensure full participation in society; and

WHEREAS, People with development disabilities continue to be discriminated against on the basis of disability and still lack opportunities to participate and be contributing members of society; people with developmental disabilities have the same legal rights and responsibilities as those guaranteed all other individuals by the Federal Constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Reagan administration recognized March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase “public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities and to provide the “encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential;” and

WHEREAS, Through a campaign each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) join forces to highlight the ways in which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities contribute and enrich our society; and

WHEREAS, Associations, such as the NACDD, aim to create awareness, through a social media campaign to highlight the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities through providing awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, In Orange County organizations such as the Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) is a private, nonprofit organization contracted by the State of California to coordinate lifelong services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, serving over 26,000 orange County residents with autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and intellectual cognitive disabilities; and

WHEREAS, institutions, such as Children’s Hospital of Orange County and University of California, Irvine, have created partnerships and programs to connect families with additional developmental resources for children up to age five, where care coordinators work one-on-one with families to find appropriate community services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS proclaim the month of March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and encourage our community to acknowledge and appreciate the valuable contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and join in efforts to promote awareness, acceptance, and inclusion to build a society where everyone can thrive and succeed.