



SPONSOR: Sen. Poore & Rep. Griffith & Rep. Heffernan & Rep. Phillips
Sens. Buckson, Cruce, Hansen, Hoffner, Huxtable, Mantzavinos, Pettyjohn, Pinkney, Seigfried, Sokola, Townsend, Wilson; Reps. Hensley, Hilovsky, K. Johnson, S. Moore, Morrison, Osienski, Romer, Ross Levin, Kamela Smith, Snyder-Hall

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025 AS “DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning,
2 language, or behavior areas, and about 1 in 6 children in the United States have 1 or more developmental disabilities; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 24% or 1 in 4 adult Delawareans
4 live with a developmental disability, and according to the CDC, in the United States, about 1 in 6 children have a
5 developmental disability; and

6 WHEREAS, 186,592 Delawareans aged 18 and over have developmental disabilities which may impact mobility,
7 cognition, independent living, hearing, vision, and self-care; and

8 WHEREAS, in Delaware, the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) supports individuals with
9 developmental disabilities and their families by providing community resources and services; and

10 WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with invisible disabilities, autism,
11 cerebral palsy, and intellectual disabilities, make valuable contributions to Delaware communities; and

12 WHEREAS, March is recognized nationally as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, an annual campaign
13 led by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and its partners to highlight how
14 people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities; and

15 WHEREAS, the 2025 theme, “We're Here All Year,” emphasizes that community, accessibility, and opportunities
16 for people with developmental disabilities should be recognized and championed every day, not just in March; and

17 WHEREAS, in Delaware, people with developmental disabilities have higher risks of depression, obesity,
18 diabetes, and substance use; and

19 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, teenagers with a developmental disability are more likely to be bullied than
20 teenagers without a developmental disability and teenagers who are bullied are nearly twice as likely to experience anxiety
21 or depression; and

22 WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people
23 with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life and the barriers they still sometimes face in connecting to the
24 communities in which they live; and

25 WHEREAS, fostering an inclusive society where people with and without disabilities live, work, and thrive
26 together strengthens our communities and enhances diversity, equity, and opportunity for all; and

27 WHEREAS, Delaware is committed to advocating for marginalized communities such as those with disabilities;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, ongoing Federal and state policy changes and funding decisions threaten critical services and
30 protections for individuals with developmental disabilities, making advocacy and awareness more important than ever; and

31 WHEREAS, it is imperative to recognize the progress made while also committing to addressing the systemic
32 barriers that persist, ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities have equal access to opportunities and the
33 support necessary to live independent and fulfilling lives; and

34 WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month serves as a call to action for policymakers, businesses,
35 and citizens to engage in efforts that promote accessibility, inclusion, and the dignity of every individual.

36 NOW THEREFORE,

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 153rd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
38 Representatives concurring therein, that the members of the General Assembly hereby recognize the month of March 2025
39 as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” in the State of Delaware.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Delawareans are encouraged to work towards a more inclusive state by
41 supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, advocating for their rights, and fostering environments that promote
42 their full participation in all aspects of life.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes the month of March 2025 as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” in Delaware and aims to highlight the prevalence of developmental disabilities both nationally and within Delaware, emphasizing the importance of awareness, inclusion, and advocacy to support and empower individuals with developmental disabilities.

Author: Senator Poore