Reflections on the 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) offers the following reflections and recommendations on the 32nd Anniversary of the ADA:

The ADA MEANS:

- Better ACCESS to supports and services in our communities
- People with disabilities are seen as HUMAN BEINGS who should be treated EQUALLY
- The ADA helps us to be better advocates, councilmembers and citizens because we have and KNOW OUR RIGHTS
- The ADA is FREEDOM to CHOOSE how we live our lives
- Security in KNOWING that you have the rights to services and supports you may need in the FUTURE because your disability CHANGES as you go through life and you can develop new and different disabilities throughout your life.
The **IMPACT** of ADA:

- Society became aware of the importance of **LANGUAGE** and started to update disability terms to be more **INCLUSIVE**
- The use of **Curb cuts** and efforts to make **Public Transportation Accessible**
- People with disabilities have the **Chance** to be who we are and **Exceed** other’s expectations of our abilities

**Recommendations** from the SAAC to SCDD:

- More **Informal Conversations** about disability topics
- Talk about **Social Issues** and **Current Events** and their impact on people with disabilities
- Share more self-advocacy **Videos** and **Stories**
- Advocate for **Better Training** for support staff
- Use **Social Media** to raise awareness of the Council’s work by live streaming meetings, tweeting and using hashtags
- **Tagging** Councilmembers in social media posts
- Self-Advocates **Interviewing** each other on social media