

# 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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