

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
February 10, 2026

Proclaiming February 27 and 28, 2026 as “Rare Disease Day” in Los Angeles County

A disease or disorder is classified as rare in the United States when it affects fewer than 200,000 people. According to the National Institutes of Health, an estimated 7,000 diseases and conditions that are considered rare in the United States, affecting an estimated 25-30 million Americans. Examples of diseases that fall into this category include Sickle Cell Anemia, Behcet’s Disease, and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. With 70% of all rare diseases beginning in childhood, many can result in the premature death of infants or can be fatal in early childhood. All pediatric cancers are considered rare diseases.

For people of all ages, common symptoms of these types of conditions can often mask underlying rare diseases, which combined with lack of scientific knowledge and reliable information, leading to misdiagnosis and delayed treatment. According to the American Behcet’s Association, “Research and development for rare diseases do not receive as much attention or funding as more common conditions, in turn, individuals with rare diseases and their families feel isolated due to the rarity of their condition.” There is often no effective cure for or clear understanding of the exact cause of rare diseases, adding to the high level of pain and suffering endured by patients and their families.

MOTION

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Additionally, these patients and their families bear a large share of the burden to fund research and raise public awareness for these rare diseases. To increase awareness, the National Organization for Rare Disorders is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February, the most-rare day on the calendar, with the aim to ensure equal access to diagnosis, treatment, healthcare, support and opportunities for all affected.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim February 27 and 28, 2026 as “Rare Disease Day” in Los Angeles County to help raise awareness and improve knowledge of rare diseases amongst the general public.
2. Encourage all Los Angeles County employees and residents to learn more about Rare Disease Day by visiting <https://www.rarediseaseday.org/>.

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