AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH November 10, 2026

Proclaiming November 2026 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in Los Angeles County

Nearly 3.4 million people in the U.S. are living with epilepsy and seizures. This includes 427,000 people living with active epilepsy in California and 116,339 people living with epilepsy and seizures in Los Angeles County.

Epilepsy is defined by a tendency to experience seizures—sudden, abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain that can disrupt behavior, awareness, and bodily control. Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder, and there are multiple types of seizures that can look different in different people. Epilepsy can lead to challenges such as fatigue, memory difficulties, mood changes, anxiety, and trouble concentrating, all of which can significantly impact daily life.

Epilepsy is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses, including a growing number of rare epilepsies that are increasingly being identified through their genetic links. Approximately half of adults with active epilepsy have annual family incomes of less than $25,000, and adults with epilepsy are more likely to report being unable to afford needed prescription medications. Children and adolescents with seizures are more likely to live in poverty and have food insecurity. Racial and ethnic minorities represent more than 40%

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of people living with epilepsy and face various disparities in obtaining appropriate diagnosis, care, and epilepsy mortality.

An increasing number of people are diagnosed with rare epilepsies which are largely complex, severe, chronic, and even life-threatening, and collectively rare epilepsies account for a growing percentage of the epilepsy population. Many treatments have been approved to treat seizures, but 30 – 40% of people with epilepsy still live with uncontrolled seizures. Epilepsy-related medical costs associated with uncontrolled epilepsy are 2 to 10 times higher than those of controlled epilepsy. 21% of people with epilepsy have reported not being able to afford their prescription medication(s) in the last year.

While protections exist in the Americans with Disabilities Act and related civil rights laws, people with epilepsy still encounter discrimination in areas including employment, education, and housing. 25% of the public say they would be nervous around a person with epilepsy. Increasing public knowledge about epilepsies and seizures can change the way people think, decrease stigma, and improve outcomes. People living with epilepsy deserve access to affordable, comprehensive, physician-directed, and person-centered healthcare. Epilepsy Awareness Month is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about epilepsy, seizures, and side effects, as well as to improve the lives of people affected by epilepsy through education, advocacy, research, and connection.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of November 2026 as Epilepsy Awareness Month in Los Angeles County; and

2. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office – Countywide Communications along with the Departments of Public Health and Health Services, to promote Epilepsy Awareness Month related events, programs, and resources, including on respective websites and social media platforms.

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