



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 22, 2023

### **Racing on the Spectrum**

The challenges we face can also be our greatest gift. I was diagnosed with dyslexia at five years old, and, even to this day, reading has always been a challenge. It was difficult watching my peers excel at academics while I felt I was lagging behind. But, after years of struggling with accepting my identity and feeling like an outcast, I realized that there is something special about knowing how to think differently, deal with frustration, practice patience, and show perseverance. "Racing on the Spectrum" shows just that, and I want to thank those who are gathered today for bringing such an important message to life.

The extraordinary journeys and unique perspectives of Armani Williams, Austin Riley, and Bobby Trundley help show how to triumph over adversity while challenging stereotypes along the way. Their individual stories illuminate the power and strength that can be found in embracing our biggest differences. California's neurodiverse communities deserve empowering representation. We need to see stories that authentically portray neurodivergent people as the main characters of their own stories, not a subplot or an afterthought.

Thank you for being a part of the "Racing on the Spectrum" team, and for demonstrating that when nurtured by a supportive team, leadership can blossom in the most unexpected of places. Please join me in continuing to build a future where everyone can embrace their most unique gifts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California