



# California State Treasurer's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Treasurer Fiona Ma highlights accessibility and financial equality for Californians with disabilities at LA Abilities Expo**

**LONG BEACH, Calif.** — California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, opened the 2026 LA Abilities Expo on Friday at the Long Beach Convention Center, addressing Californians with disabilities, families, advocates, and service providers while highlighting expanded financial opportunities through the state's CalABLE program.



The Abilities Expo, the largest disability resource expo in California, brings together individuals and organizations focused on accessibility, independence, and opportunity. Treasurer Ma led a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the event and met with attendees from across the disability community.

“Accessibility and financial opportunity should be part of every Californian’s future,” said Treasurer Fiona Ma. “CalABLE is helping make that possible. Today, more than 18,000 Californians have opened accounts and saved over \$250 million through the program, building greater financial security and independence.”



Treasurer Ma noted that programs like CalABLE provide an important financial safety net for people with disabilities, allowing them to save for the future and pay for essential needs such as housing, education, and health care without risking critical federal benefits such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. Treasurer Ma also highlighted a recent age adjustment expanding eligibility for ABLE accounts, allowing more Californians whose disability began before age 46 to open and contribute to accounts.

Julienne, a CalABLE ambassador, Ms. Wheelchair California 2024, and longtime advocate in the disability community, was among those newly eligible. Nearly 30 years ago, an autoimmune disease left her paralyzed. Since then, she has been deeply involved in disability advocacy, including helping run the Abilities Expo and serving on nonprofit boards.

“When the eligibility age changed, it meant people like me were finally included,” said Julienne, a CalABLE ambassador. “For the first time, I can open a CalABLE account and start saving for my future without risking the benefits that help me live independently.”

To learn more about CalABLE, visit [CalABLE.ca.gov](https://www.calable.ca.gov).

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*Fiona Ma is California’s 34th State Treasurer. She is the first woman of color, and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. Treasurer Ma serves as the state’s banker and is agent of sale for all state bonds and trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness. The State Treasurer’s Office also processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions annually and manages a \$150 billion investment portfolio. As State Treasurer, Ma is also chair of many boards, commissions, and authorities that provide financing for schools, housing, recycling and waste management, alternative energy, hospitals, and other projects that create jobs, improve California’s economy, and better the lives of residents.*