



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Statement on the Loss of Autism Advocate Feda Almaliti,¹ and Her Son, Muhammed
Victims of a Fremont, CA home fire early Saturday

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was profoundly saddened to learn of the tragic loss of Feda Almaliti and her son, Muhammed, in a house fire this weekend. DDS knew Feda through her tremendous activism on behalf of individuals with autism. Feda's advocacy and remarkable leadership has profoundly touched the developmental services system in California. One example of her dedication includes her commitment to the successful passage of Senate Bill 946 requiring health insurance companies to pay for behavioral therapies. We share our deepest condolences with her family. Feda's kindness, strength, insight and advocacy will be missed immensely.

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¹ Also known as Feda Sala, she served as vice president of the National Council on Severe Autism as well as vice president of the Autism Society of the San Francisco Bay Area, and on the board of the Mental Health and Autism Insurance Project.