

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, according to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau, 604,245 Oklahomans, 19.0% age 5 and over, have some form of disability; and

Whereas, people with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group, almost one in five; and

Whereas, this group is also the most inclusive and most diverse group: all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic levels are represented; and

Whereas, when the words "retard" or "retarded" are used without thinking to mean something stupid or bad, it is hurtful to people who have disabilities and the people who love them; and

Whereas, it perpetuates prejudice and discrimination towards people with disabilities; and

Whereas, this word is just as cruel and offensive as any other slur or hate speech;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2009, as

"Spread the Word to End the "r" Word Day"

in the State of Oklahoma,

and encourage all Oklahomans to Spread the Word throughout their communities and schools encourage everyone to stop saying the "r" word.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 11th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred first year.

M. Susan Lewis
SECRETARY OF STATE

Brad Henry
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: