

**THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY**

**S.R. 2013/2014 – 06**

**A Resolution formally supporting the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign, to acknowledge any variation of the word “retarded” as offensive and derogatory.**

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Authored by: Alex Dudek, Inter-Fraternity Council Senator  
Sponsored by: Erik Juzkiw, Off Campus Senator and Kyle St. Peter, At-Large Senator

XXXX, 2014

Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for presentation to the President of the Undergraduate Student Body.

XXXX, 2014

Approved by the President of the Undergraduate Student Body, and so ordered into effect.

---

Katie Post  
Speaker of the Senate

---

Alex Solis  
President of the Undergraduate Student Body

# S.R. 2013/2014 - 06

**A Resolution formally supporting the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign, to acknowledge any variation of the word “retarded” as offensive and derogatory.**

*In the senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled*

1. **Whereas**, in 2009, the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign was formally launched at the
2. Special Olympics World Winter Games that established the first annual “Spread the Word to End the
3. Word” Awareness Day on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009; and
4. **Whereas**, the Spread the Word to End the Word movement was driven by a united passion to promote
5. the positive contributions people with intellectual disabilities make to communities; and
6. **Whereas**, Spread the Word to End the Word’s mission is to eliminate the word “retarded” from
7. colloquial and everyday speech because it is hurtful, derogatory, and dehumanizing to individuals with
8. intellectual disabilities; and
9. **Whereas**, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed Bill 79, changing the Ohio
10. Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Ohio Department of
11. Developmental Disabilities; and
12. **Whereas**, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the President of the United States Barack Obama officially signed
13. bill S. 2781 into federal law, removing the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” from
14. federal health, education, and labor policy; and
15. **Whereas**, every year, an official day is dedicated to spreading the word to end the word to raise
16. awareness and to support advocates of eliminating any variation of the word “retard” from everyday
17. speech; and
18. **Whereas**, the 2014 Spread the Word to End the Word National Awareness Day is March 5<sup>th</sup>; and
19. **Whereas**, disability unawareness and ignorance is often times forgotten and/or not acknowledged to
20. the same extent as other offensive, derogatory, or hateful words and actions; and
21. **Whereas**, use of the derogatory term “retard” has been eliminated from both federal and state health,
22. education, and labor speech; and
23. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government is adamant about creating an inclusive and safe
24. community free of hate, bullying, and offensive language; and
25. **Whereas**, on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Undergraduate Student Government at Bowling Green State
26. University formally endorsed The Not In Our Town campaign, which outlines community support to
27. stop hate and bullying and build safe and inclusive environments for all in the community; and
28. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government directly interacts with the entire Undergraduate
29. student body;

30. **Therefore, Let It Be Resolved**, that the Undergraduate Student Government formally supports and  
31. respects individuals with disabilities and person-first language; and

32. **Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved**, that the Undergraduate Student Government at Bowling  
33. Green State University formally supports the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign at Bowling  
34. Green State University and in the Bowling Green community; and

35. **Therefore, Let It Finally Be Resolved**, that the Undergraduate Student Government will do its part  
36. in acknowledging, supporting, and celebrating the Spread the Word to End the Word National  
37. Awareness day each year for years to come.

DRAFT

**THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY**

*Passed by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.*

---

Katie Post

Speaker of the Senate

*I do hereby approve, and order this legislation into effect.*

---

Alex Solis

The President of the Undergraduate Student Body

*I do hereby disapprove, and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.*

---

Alex Solis

The President of the Undergraduate Student Body