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 3rd, 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 Special Olympics World Winter Games that established the first annual “Spread the Word to End the Word” Awareness Day on March 5th, 2009; and

4. Whereas, the Spread the Word to End the Word movement was driven by a united passion to promote 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 colloquial and everyday speech because it is hurtful, derogatory, and dehumanizing to individuals with intellectual disabilities; and

9. Whereas, on July 7th, 2009, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed Bill 79, changing the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities; and

12. Whereas, on October 5th, 2010, the President of the United States Barack Obama officially signed bill S. 2781 into federal law, removing the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” from 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 awareness and to support advocates of eliminating any variation of the word “retard” from everyday speech; and

18. Whereas, the 2014 Spread the Word to End the Word National Awareness Day is March 5th; and

19. Whereas, disability unawareness and ignorance is often times forgotten and/or not acknowledged to 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, education, and labor speech; and

23. Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government is adamant about creating an inclusive and safe community free of hate, bullying, and offensive language; and

25. Whereas, on August 26th, 2013, the Undergraduate Student Government at Bowling Green State University formally endorsed The Not In Our Town campaign, which outlines community support to 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 student body;
30. **Therefore, Let It Be Resolved,** that the Undergraduate Student Government formally supports and respects individuals with disabilities and person-first language; and

32. **Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved,** that the Undergraduate Student Government at Bowling Green State University formally supports the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign at Bowling 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 in acknowledging, supporting, and celebrating the Spread the Word to End the Word National Awareness day each year for years to come.

**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.

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Katie Post
Speaker of the Senate

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

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Alex Solis
The President of the Undergraduate Student Body

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

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Alex Solis
The President of the Undergraduate Student Body