

1 [Urging the End of the Use of the “R” Word]

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3 **Resolution supporting the elimination of the derogatory use of the “R” word from**  
4 **everyday speech, and promoting the acceptance and inclusion of people with**  
5 **intellectual disabilities.**

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7 WHEREAS, Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing effort to raise the  
8 consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word “retard(ed)”  
9 and encourage people to pledge to stop using the R-word; and

10 WHEREAS, Spread the Word to End the Word was created in 2009 at the Special  
11 Olympics World Winter Games by youth with and without intellectual disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Spread the Word to End the Word holds its' annual day of awareness on  
13 the first Wednesday of every March; and

14 WHEREAS, On March 1, 2017 the San Francisco Unified School District’s special  
15 education transition program AccessSFUSD: The Arc, students, and community members  
16 held powerful rally at City Hall commemorating the campaign to end the word; and

17 WHEREAS, The motivation for the campaign was driven by a united passion to  
18 promote the positive contributions people with intellectual disabilities make to communities  
19 around the world combined with a simple call to action—a pledge to stop using a word—that  
20 also symbolizes positive attitude change and a commitment to make the world a more  
21 accepting place for all people; and

22 WHEREAS, Respectful and inclusive language is essential to the movement for the  
23 dignity and humanity of people with intellectual disabilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Much of society does not recognize the hurtful, dehumanizing and  
25 exclusive effects of the word “retard(ed);” and

1           WHEREAS, It is time to address the minority slur “retard(ed)” and raise the  
2           consciousness of society to its hurtful effects; and

3           WHEREAS, Language is powerful and especially in a time where divisive language is  
4           being used to scapegoat and isolate communities; and

5           WHEREAS, It is critical that we take responsibility for the impact of our words and help  
6           create communities of inclusion and acceptance for all people; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby pledge to  
8           support the elimination of the derogatory use of the r-word from everyday speech and  
9           promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
11          the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies this resolution be sent to the Superintendent  
12          of SFUSD and the Board of Education Commissioners.

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