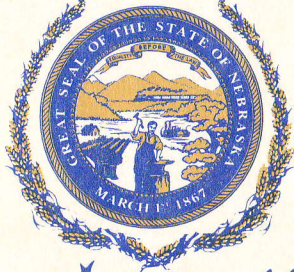


STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

According to the 2006 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 217,485 Nebraskans, 13.5% 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, Dave Heineman, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 3rd day of March, 2010, as

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE "R" WORD DAY

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Eleventh day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Ten.



Attest:

Jim A. Gage

Secretary of State

Dave Heineman

Governor