

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0004

Designation of disabilities.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Esquibel, F., Buchanan,
Harvey, Millin, Zwonitzer, Dn. and
Zwonitzer, Dv. and Senator(s) Case, Fecht
and Massie

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION urging Wyoming state agencies to replace
2 references to "mental retardation" in their documents with
3 a more respectful term or description that reflects
4 increased sensitivity to those who experience this
5 disability; and recommending Wyoming state agencies review
6 and consider language currently used by other states that
7 have previously changed their references.

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9 WHEREAS, the stigma attached to the phrase "mental
10 retardation" creates an unwarranted burden on those who
11 experience this intellectual disability;

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13 WHEREAS, in some cases government agencies inadvertently
14 perpetuate this burden by continuing to use this archaic
15 term;

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2 WHEREAS, this phrase should be changed to reflect a
3 sensitivity to those who experience this disability;

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5 WHEREAS, many government agencies throughout the United
6 States have altered their documents to refer to these
7 individuals as persons with a disability;

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9 WHEREAS, the use of the term "persons with a disability"
10 removes a measure of the sting and stigma by those who must
11 struggle with this disability every day of their lives; and

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13 WHEREAS, Wyoming state agencies should take deliberate
14 steps to update their documents to reflect this more
15 sensitive reference to characterize those with this
16 disability.

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18 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
19 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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21 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming legislature urges Wyoming
22 state agencies to review their official documents and
23 replace current references to "mental retardation" with an

1 alternative that reflects increased sensitivity to those
2 who experience this disability.

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wyoming legislature
5 encourages Wyoming state agencies to review and consider
6 alternative references to this disability that are used by
7 other states.

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9 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State transmit
10 copies of this resolution to the Wyoming governor's
11 planning council on developmental disabilities, the
12 department of health, the department of family services,
13 the early intervention council, and people first of
14 Wyoming.

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(END)