



SR0228

LRB095 12200 DRJ 37057 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The use of "retard" (as a noun) or "retarded" as slang to label a person or situation that the speaker considers stupid, unreasonable, foolish, or absurd has become common in our society; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, The use of "retard" or "retarded" in such a casual or colloquial way reflects an insensitivity to persons with disabilities; and

7

8

9

WHEREAS, Such use of "retard" or "retarded", even when done with a laugh or as a joke, can be hurtful, both to persons with disabilities and to their families and friends; and

10

11

12

WHEREAS, All persons in this State enjoy freedom of speech, but, at the same time, they should consider the effect of the words they use; and

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Soeren Palumbo, a student at Fremd High School in Palatine, briefly addressed the Illinois Senate on the subject of the casual use of the words "retard" and "retarded"; the address was an abridged version of a longer speech given to his classmates that was a wake-up call for those who all-too-casually use those words in an insensitive way and that also served as a tribute to his younger sister, who is

16

17

18

19

20

21

1 developmentally disabled; and

2 WHEREAS, Many other persons have also spoken out against
3 this insensitive use of "retard" and "retarded"; therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Illinoisans not
7 to casually use the words "retard" or "retarded" in an
8 insensitive way that may be hurtful to others.