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FEB 25 2015

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, to fully participate in all aspects of society, and, as all Oklahomans, reach for the highest quality of life; and

Whereas, individuals with developmental disabilities should have equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, including full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

Whereas, individuals with developmental disabilities are at greater risk than the general population for abuse, neglect, exploitation, and the violation of their legal and human rights, and language such as the word "retard" is not only hurtful to people with developmental disabilities and the people who love them, but also perpetuates prejudice and discrimination, just like any other slur or hate speech; and

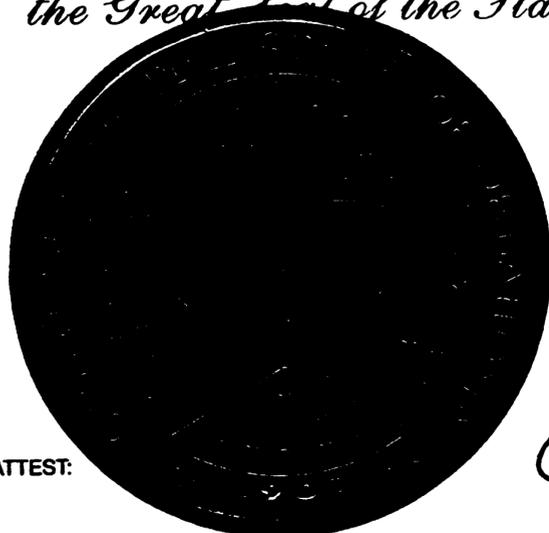
Whereas, we encourage all citizens to nurture a culture of diversity that offers inclusion and opportunity for all, and support individuals with developmental disabilities in living as independently and productively as possible;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2015, as

"Developmental Disability Awareness Day"

in the state of Oklahoma and urge all citizens to recognize the rights all people begin at conception and continue through the end of life, and that our communities are stronger when everyone is welcomed and included. This day is a time to celebrate and recognize individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, and community members as we encourage all Oklahomans to focus on the abilities of all people.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



ATTEST:

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 25th day of February in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fifteen and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and seventh year.

Ch. Benz
SECRETARY OF STATE

Mary Fallin
GOVERNOR

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