



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
Governor

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for almost half a century Special Olympics has been a champion for people with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, what started as an inclusive sports camp in the early 1960s in Eunice Kennedy Shriver's backyard has blossomed into a worldwide movement transforming lives in over 170 countries; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities, through year-round sports training, competitions, and health and wellness initiatives; Special Olympics North Carolina involves nearly 40,000 children and adults to celebrate people's diverse gifts; and

WHEREAS, the word "retard" or "retarded" (also referred to as the R-word) is hurtful and derogatory to people with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics conducts a campaign asking people to pledge to stop saying the R-word as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people because language affects attitudes and attitudes affect actions; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics asks people everywhere to pledge to use respectful, people-first language to encourage actions of inclusion, acceptance and unity for and with people with intellectual disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2017, as "**SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-first day of February in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.