

Senate Resolution 1324

By: Senators Grant of the 25th, Unterman of the 45th, Goggans of the 7th and Thomas of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the harmful and unintended consequences of the use of the term "mental
2 retardation" and resolving to refrain from the use of this term in future speech and legislation;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the term "mental retardation," while having a clinical meaning to professionals
5 in the medical and educational fields, has devolved into an insulting, degrading, and even
6 hateful term for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, hurtful classifications such as moron, imbecile, and retard are used in casual
8 speech and have no place in today's society; and

9 WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in ten families are affected by developmental disabilities
10 in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, studies show that the language used to describe or classify a person often
12 directly correlates to that individual's treatment and perception by others in daily life; and

13 WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities can learn, hold jobs, contribute to their
14 households and society, and lead productive and fulfilled lives; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities are valued friends, loved family
16 members, and productive members of their communities; and

17 WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities are entitled to the dignity and respect
18 due to all of Georgia's citizens.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
20 recognize the hurtful and unintended consequences of the use of the term and classification

21 "mental retardation" and resolve to replace this term with the term "developmental
22 disabilities" in future speech and legislation.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and the press.