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NDSC CONDEMNS THE USE OF THE “R-WORD” AND CALLS FOR RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

Cincinnati, OH - In response to the recent uptick in the use of the “R word” in public dialogue, The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) issues the following statement.

NDSC condemns the use of the “R-word” in all contexts, regardless of intention and without exception. It is disrespectful and dehumanizing to all people with intellectual disabilities.

As explained by our colleagues at [Special Olympics](#), “The R-word is a form of hate speech that stands for “retard,” “retarded,” or other offensive words ending in “-tard.” While “mental retardation” was originally introduced as a medical term in 1961 for people with intellectual disabilities, in the decades since, the R-word has become an insult used all too commonly in everyday language.”

NDSC Executive Director, Jim Hudson, stated, “NDSC works to promote equal rights and opportunities for people with Down syndrome. The use of the “R-word” is painful to individuals with intellectual disability and their families and sets our movement back decades. We implore people to stop using this derogatory language and treat people with Down syndrome with the respect and dignity they deserve.

About the National Down Syndrome Congress

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to an improved world for individuals with Down syndrome. Founded in 1973, the NDSC is a leading national resource of support and information for anyone touched by or seeking to learn about Down syndrome, from the moment of a prenatal diagnosis through adulthood. The purpose of the NDSC is to promote the interests of people with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, public awareness, and information, empowering individuals and families from all demographic backgrounds and reshaping the way people understand and experience Down syndrome. The National Down Syndrome Congress is dedicated to an improved world for individuals with Down syndrome.

For more information on the NDSC, check out our website or follow us on social media.

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