



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:
Rep. John Jagler (608) 266-9650

Weekly Radio Address: John Jagler on why the R-word needs to be taken out of state agency rules.

Madison...Representative John Jagler (R-Watertown), released the Weekly Radio Address on behalf of Wisconsin State Republicans.

This week, the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate [passed a bill](#) that will remove the use of the phrase “mental retardation” and its derivatives from all state administrative code.

Words matter. Years ago, the terms imbecile and idiot were also medically acceptable. They went away. As a parent of a child with Down syndrome, I know how hurtful the R-Word can be, and it should go away too.

I frequently wear a bracelet that says “spread the word to end the R-word. Today we are ending it in state government.

The bill, Co-Authored with Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, replaces the R-word with the phrase “intellectual disability.”

The state shouldn't be using words or phrases that make those with intellectual disabilities feel like they are less valuable than other citizens.

I'm thankful for the support of my legislative colleagues and urge Governor Evers to sign it into law

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/eupdates/asm37/RadioAddressJagler.mp3>

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