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Center for Persons With Disabilities

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CAC CORNER: TIME TO CELEBRATE!

June 1, 2011 by cpehrson

This CAC Corner blog was written by Tom Brownlee, Chair of the CPD Consumer Advisory Council.

In February of this year, Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed House Bill 230 into law eliminating the term “mental retardation” in all state documents.

For many years, for people with disabilities, this (term) has been very offensive, and not appropriate, as well.

From my past experience, it was very personal for me, getting teased and called that name.

So, we've been trying over the years to get this changed, and finally, on the federal level, there's Rosa's Law. (This law will replace the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” with “intellectual disability” and “individual with an intellectual disability” throughout federal health, education and labor policy.)

And now, on the local level, a true milestone has been reached (as HB 230 goes into effect). It is a time to celebrate for all here in the state of Utah!

Note: Rosa Marcellino's brother, Nick, stated when President Obama signed Rosa’ Law into effect, "What you call people is how you treat them. If we change the words, maybe it will be the start of a new attitude towards people with disabilities."