



EXECUTIVE ORDER #15

Relating to Inclusive Language in Administrative Rules

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Wisconsin are directly impacted by the Wisconsin Administrative Code and its provisions and language;

WHEREAS, numerous sections of the Wisconsin Administrative Code contain provisions which use outdated and derogatory terms to refer to particular groups of people;

WHEREAS, this outdated, derogatory terminology minimizes and devalues these groups;

WHEREAS, inclusive language honors and values the important contributions made by these groups to the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of my administration to respect and honor all of the people of the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order the following:

1. Direct each State Agency to review its administrative rules and replace any derogatory or offensive terminology with current, inclusive terminology. This includes, but is not limited to replacing:
 - a. "Mentally retarded" with "intellectually disabled";
 - b. "Mental retardation" with "intellectual disability"; and
 - c. "Handicapped" with "disabled."
2. Direct each State Agency to complete its review and submit a scope statement to make such changes no later than 90 days from the date of this order.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twelfth Day of March in the year of two thousand nineteen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers", written over a horizontal line.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas La Follette", written over a horizontal line.

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State