



Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helping people to live, learn and work in our community

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Jed W. Morison
Superintendent/CEO

August 5, 2013

Representative William G. Batchelder, Speaker and Co-Chair
Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Representative Vernon Sykes, Co-Chair
Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission
77 South High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Sykes and Speaker Batchelder:

First, thank you for your leadership of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Committee. With this letter, we respectfully request your support of some updated language.

Upon learning of the Commission, our Board has become aware that the Constitution currently contains some obsolescent terms, including for example, "idiot" and "insane persons" and "insane...deaf and dumb." Because these terms are unnecessary and potentially offensive to many persons, we encourage the Modernization Commission to support the elimination of these terms. The attached resolution was passed unanimously by our Board on July 25, 2013.

On behalf of our Board, we thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely,



Jed Morison
Superintendent/CEO

JM/If
Enclosure
c: Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks

RESOLUTION

SUPPORT OF REMOVAL OF OBSOLESCEENT LANGUAGE FROM OHIO CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission was established with the passage of House Bill 188; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission is charged under Revised Code 103.61 with studying the Constitution of Ohio, promoting an exchange of experiences and suggestions respecting desired changes in the Constitution, considering the problems pertaining to the amendment of the Constitution, and making recommendations from time to time to the General Assembly for the amendment of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has become aware that the Constitution of Ohio currently contains some obsolescent terms including for example, "idiot" and "insane persons" (Article 5, Sect. 06) and "insane...deaf and dumb" (Article 7, Sect. 01); and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the use of such terms in the Ohio Constitution is both unnecessary and potentially offensive to many persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities supports the elimination of such obsolescent terms from the Ohio Constitution and calls upon the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission to support amendments(s) of the Constitution as needed.

Motion By: Linda Craig

Second By: Beth Savage

Voting in Favor: John Bickley

Marie Crawford

Helen Ninos

July 25, 2013



Board President