



Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
c/o A. J. Pappanikou Center in Developmental Disabilities  
University of Connecticut  
263 Farmington Avenue, MC 6222  
Farmington, CT 06030  
Toll free: 888.486.8537  
[www.ctdownsyndrome.org](http://www.ctdownsyndrome.org)

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Date: August 13, 2008  
To: Principals and Special Education Administrators  
From: The Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
Subject: Attacks on students who have intellectual disabilities

The Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress has joined with a coalition of national disability-rights organizations to condemn the new film "Tropic Thunder," which contains damaging and hurtful hate speech about individuals who have intellectual disabilities.

One of the most unfortunate consequences of this movie is the distribution of merchandise that displays offensive lines like "never go full retard" on clothing and other items that students may bring to school.

We believe that exhibiting such merchandise to our children in the school environment targets our children with a pattern of behavior that interferes with their public education and we respectfully request that you prohibit the presence of all such items in accordance with Connecticut's laws and regulations regarding bullying in schools. Furthermore, we believe that any intimidating speech directed at specific students in face-to-face confrontations must be punished under the fighting words doctrine.

We appreciate your help in this matter and we thank you for your continuing efforts to provide a free and appropriate public education for our children in the least restrictive environment.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Glomb, Jr.  
President  
Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress