**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO MEMORIALIZE THE FULL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE THE DECISION OF ITS EXECUTIVE BOARD AND REINSTATE WRESTLING AS A CORE SPORT OF THE SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES.

Whereas, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee has proposed eliminating the sport of wrestling from the Summer Olympic Games beginning in 2020; and

Whereas, the proposal will be approved or disapproved by the full committee at its September general assembly; and

Whereas, wrestling was one of the original sports of the ancient Greek Olympic Games and of the first modern Olympic Games; and

Whereas, wrestling has been a traditional strength of the United States Olympic team, with 124 medals awarded to the United States throughout history; and

Whereas, wrestling provides mainstream opportunities to athletes of all physical builds and body sizes, including the blind, deaf, and physically handicapped student athletes who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in athletics; and

Whereas, over 280,000 high school students in the United States participated in wrestling in 2012, and over 350 intercollegiate wrestling programs exist in this country; and

Whereas, the sport of wrestling builds great strength, not only of body, but also of character, including the virtues of self‑confidence, self‑discipline, courage, and sportsmanship; and

Whereas, wrestling has produced many outstanding national leaders, including Presidents, United States Supreme Court Justices, United States Senators, Members of Congress, and business and military leaders. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, respectfully memorialize the full committee of the International Olympic Committee to oppose the decision of its executive board and reinstate wrestling as a core sport of the Summer Olympic Games.

Be it further resolved, that the General Assembly commends the United States Olympic Committee for its defense of wrestling, and urges its continued support and efforts towards the reinstatement of Olympic wrestling.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this concurrent resolution be forwarded to each member of the International Olympic Committee and each member of the United States Olympic Committee.

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