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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 169

2 WHEREAS, The executive board of the International Olympic
3 Committee (IOC) reviewed 26 sports on its summer program and
4 decided to eliminate wrestling as an Olympic sport, stunning
5 the world's wrestlers, who see their sport as popular and
6 steeped in history as old as the Olympics themselves; and

7 WHEREAS, While wrestling will be included at the 2016
8 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, it will not be included in the 2020
9 Olympic Games; and

10 WHEREAS, The executive board of the IOC voted after
11 reviewing an IOC program commission report that analyzed 39
12 criteria, including TV ratings, ticket sales, global
13 participation, and popularity; and

14 WHEREAS, According to IOC documents, wrestling ranked
15 "low" in several of the technical criteria; and

16 WHEREAS, The decision to phase out wrestling will have a
17 detrimental impact on many teams around the world, including
18 the United States, whose wrestling medals are only outnumbered
19 by swimming and track and field; and

20 WHEREAS, Wrestling is also one of the most popular youth

1 sports in the United States, with nearly 275,000 competitors
2 from 2010 to 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois has the second most high school wrestlers
4 in any state in the nation, with 17,112 high school boys and
5 girls wrestling in the 2011-2012 year; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation, USA
7 Wrestling's state association in Illinois for wrestlers
8 between the ages of 5-13, has the largest membership in the
9 nation within USA Wrestling, with almost 19,000 members last
10 year and a complete program of events and opportunities for
11 wrestlers of all levels in the State; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois is also active in college wrestling
13 through 18 college programs, including the Division I programs
14 at Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University,
15 Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois;
16 the Division II program at McKendree College; and the Division
17 III programs at Augustana College, Elmhurst College, Knox
18 College, North Central College, the University of Chicago, and
19 Wheaton College, as well as the Junior College programs at
20 Kennedy-King College, Lincoln College, Rend Lake College,
21 Triton College, Waubonsee Community College, Wilbur Wright
22 College, and William Rainey Harper College; and

1 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, when living in New Salem, was an
2 accomplished wrestler and was once considered one of the best
3 in the Midwest in the early 1830s; according to the National
4 Wrestling Hall of Fame, Lincoln had only one recorded defeat in
5 12 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Wrestling is a diverse, popular, and historic
7 sport, and it is fitting and proper that the IOC keep wrestling
8 in the Olympic Games after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro,
9 Brazil; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we request that the IOC revisit their decision to drop
13 wrestling from the Olympic Games after the 2016 Games in Rio de
14 Janeiro, Brazil, and urge them to keep it as an Olympic sport;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to Richard Bender, Executive Director of USA
18 Wrestling; James Considine, Illinois State Director of USA
19 Wrestling; and the United States Olympic Committee.