



HR0169HAM002

LRB098 11395 GRL 44333 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 169

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Resolution 169, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the heading with the following:

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, Wrestling is also one of the most popular youth
8 sports in the United States, with nearly 275,000 competitors
9 from 2010 to 2011; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Illinois is also active in college wrestling
20 through 18 college programs, including the Division I programs

1 at Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University,
2 Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois;
3 the Division II program at McKendree College; and the Division
4 III programs at Augustana College, Elmhurst College, Knox
5 College, North Central College, the University of Chicago, and
6 Wheaton College, as well as the Junior College programs at
7 Kennedy-King College, Lincoln College, Rend Lake College,
8 Triton College, Waubensee Community College, Wilbur Wright
9 College, and William Rainey Harper College; and

10 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, when living in New Salem, was an
11 accomplished wrestler and was once considered one of the best
12 in the Midwest in the early 1830s; according to the National
13 Wrestling Hall of Fame, Lincoln had only one recorded defeat in
14 12 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Wrestling is a diverse, popular, and historic
16 sport, and it is fitting and proper that the IOC keep wrestling
17 in the Olympic Games after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro,
18 Brazil; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we request that the IOC revisit their decision to drop
22 wrestling from the Olympic Games after the 2016 Games in Rio de
23 Janeiro, Brazil, and urge them to keep it as an Olympic sport;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to Richard Bender, Executive Director of USA
4 Wrestling; James Considine, Illinois State Director of USA
5 Wrestling; and the United States Olympic Committee.".