



HR0210

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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