



HR0786

LRB104 21424 LAW 36463 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Herrin Junior High
4 School girls basketball team, the Lady Tigers, on winning the
5 2026 Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association
6 (SIJHSAA) Class L State Championship; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2026 SIJHSAA State Tournament featured eight
8 games across three rounds at Rend Lake College, with Round 1
9 covering the quarter-final games on January 29, Round 2
10 presenting the semi-final games on January 31, and Round 3
11 showcasing the final games on February 3; and

12 WHEREAS, In keeping with the Herrin Junior High School
13 girls basketball program's undefeated streak during the
14 2025-2026 season, the Lady Tigers defeated Harrisburg Middle
15 School 50-47 in the quarter-finals, beat DuQuoin Middle School
16 50-29 in the semi-finals, and ultimately faced Wesclin Middle
17 School in the state final for the championship; and

18 WHEREAS, The Lady Tigers, invigorated by the team's own
19 second place finish in the 2025 SIJHSAA Class L State
20 Tournament, rallied for an incredible victory; and

21 WHEREAS, The Lady Tigers gained a lead through Olivia Wade

1 scoring 7 unanswered points, which the team maintained the
2 entire game; the team was further led in the championship game
3 by Amayah Simelton, who scored 24 points, 9 rebounds, 4
4 blocks, 3 assists, and 1 steal, and Olivia Wade, who trailed
5 with 18 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists; and

6 WHEREAS, The Lady Tigers finished the state final 56-35,
7 concluding its 2025-2026 season undefeated with a record of
8 25-0 and as the champion-winning team of the Big 7 Conference
9 Tournament, the SIJHSAA Class L Basketball Regional
10 Tournament, and the SIJHSAA Class L State Tournament; and

11 WHEREAS, The Lady Tigers are led by Coach Matt Zaranti,
12 Assistant Coaches Layla Wade and Makayla Starkweather, and
13 Managers Molly Duppong and Gracelyn Evans; and

14 WHEREAS, The 2025-2026 Lady Tigers include eighth graders
15 Rylin Cravens, Blakly Faulkenberry, Brynlee Fortner, Emma
16 Patalano, and Amayah Simelton, seventh graders Elle Hall, Lexi
17 Henard, Bryleigh Holland, Ainsley Rich, and Olivia Wade, and
18 sixth graders Gracie Menesse, Betty Moore-Coleman, and
19 Caterina Zaranti,; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate the Herrin Junior High School girls basketball

1 team, the Lady Tigers, on winning the 2026 Southern Illinois
2 Junior High School Athletic Association (SIJHSAA) Class L
3 State Championship and on achieving a 25-0 undefeated season;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 presented to the coaches and players of the Lady Tigers as a
7 symbol of our esteem and respect.