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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, February 2, 2022 marks the 36th Annual National Girls & Women in Sports Day (NGWSD), an annual day of observance to acknowledge the accomplishments of female athletes, to recognize the importance of participating in sports for women and girls, and to honor the progress and continuing struggle for equality of women in sports; and

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WHEREAS, National Girls & Women in Sports Day began in 1987; it united premiere organizations and elite women athletes to bring national attention to the promise of girls and women in sports; and

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WHEREAS, National Girls & Women in Sports Day also recognizes the progress made since the enactment of Title IX 50 years ago; the passage of Title IX provided for the equal participation of everyone in all programs and activities that were federally funded; this meant all public schools would ensure equitable sports opportunities to the students, regardless of gender; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois is home to two professional women's sports teams, including the 2021 Women's National Basketball Champions, the Chicago Sky; the team has achieved momentum since its 2006 inaugural year and most recently has been much

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1 celebrated throughout Illinois for its amazing and inspiring  
2 year and championship title; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois is also home to the Chicago Red Stars, a  
4 founding member of the former Women's Professional Soccer  
5 which became one of the original eight teams to form the  
6 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) in 2013; the team made  
7 the playoffs in six consecutive years from 2015 to 2020 and  
8 clinched the team's first appearance in the NWSL Championship  
9 in the 2019 season; they also appeared in the NWSL's Challenge  
10 Cup Final in 2020; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we declare February of 2022 as "Girls & Women in Sports Month"  
14 in the State of Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we support the goals and ideals exemplified  
16 by professional women's sports teams, women's collegiate  
17 sports organizations, and girls' high school and grade school  
18 sports, understand the critical role that sports can have in  
19 the growth and development of girls, and recognize the ability  
20 of sports to teach the kind of collaborative teamwork that is  
21 integral to academic and professional success; and be it  
22 further

1           RESOLVED, That we strongly support the goals and ideals of  
2 Title IX, celebrate Girls & Women in Sports, and encourage  
3 other units of government to do the same in an effort to  
4 educate the public as to the importance of women and girls  
5 participating in athletics; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we recognize all women and girls who play  
7 or have played sports at any level and applaud the example they  
8 have set and continue to set for those coming after them.