

Public Law 100-289
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate April 6, 1988, as "National Student-Athlete Day".

Apr. 12, 1988

[H.J. Res. 513]

Whereas, the student-athlete represents a role model worthy of emulation by America's youth;

Whereas, such worthy values and behaviors as perseverance, teamwork, self-discipline and commitment to a goal are fostered and promoted by both academic and athletic pursuits;

Whereas, participation in athletics, together with education, provides opportunities to develop valuable social and leadership skills and to gain an appreciation of ethnic and racial groups different from one's own;

Whereas, in spite of all the positive aspects of sport, overemphasis on sport at the expense of education can cause serious harm to an athlete's future;

Whereas, the pursuit of victory in athletics among our nation's schools and colleges too often leads to exploitation and abuse of the student-athlete;

Whereas, only 1 in 10,000 high school athletes who dream of a career in professional sports ever realize that aspiration, while those who do can expect a professional sports career of less than 4 years;

Whereas, thousands of America's youth sacrifice academic achievement to the dream of professional athletics;

Whereas, the practice of keeping athletes eligible for participation on a team, even at the high school level, must be abandoned for a policy of ensuring a meaningful education and degree;

Whereas, coaches, parents and educators of student-athletes must express high expectations for academic performance as well as for athletic performance; and

Whereas, there is a need in this Nation to reemphasize the "student" in the term "student-athlete": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 6, 1988, is designated as "National Student-Athlete Day" and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Approved April 12, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 513:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

Mar. 30, considered and passed House and Senate.