

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 481

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that professional sports leagues and the International Olympic Committee should help reinforce the unacceptability and harmfulness of illegal drug use by establishing clear guidelines and penalties, and that athletes using illegal drugs who do not identify the person who provided the illegal drugs and successfully complete a drug treatment program should be suspended from play for a minimum of one year without pay.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. RYUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that professional sports leagues and the International Olympic Committee should help reinforce the unacceptability and harmfulness of illegal drug use by establishing clear guidelines and penalties, and that athletes using illegal drugs who do not identify the person who provided the illegal drugs and successfully complete a drug treatment program should be suspended from play for a minimum of one year without pay.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Drug-Free Pro-
4 fessional and Olympic Athlete Responsibility Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The House of Representatives finds as follows:

7 (1) There has been an increase in the number
8 of reports over the last year about athletes who have
9 used illegal drugs, have failed to get effective treat-
10 ment, and have not received appropriate sanctions.

11 (2) Illegal drug use among our Nation’s youth
12 has doubled in the 6 years preceding 1997, with sig-
13 nificant increases in the use of marijuana, inhalants,
14 cocaine, methamphetamine, LSD, and heroin.

15 (3) The most dramatic increases in teenage
16 drug use have been among children between the ages
17 of 13 and 14.

18 (4) Professional and Olympic athletes are role
19 models for our Nation’s youth, particularly young
20 teenagers.

21 (5) Increases in substance abuse among youth
22 are due in large part to an erosion of understanding
23 by youth of the high risks associated with substance
24 use, and to the softening of peer norms against use.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

2 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

3 (1) all professional sports leagues and the
4 International Olympic Committee should help rein-
5 force the unacceptability and harmfulness of sub-
6 stance abuse by establishing clear guidelines and
7 penalties regarding drug abuse, including a written
8 policy, treatment assistance programs, and minimum
9 penalties that are consistently enforced; and

10 (2) athletes who are using illegal drugs who do
11 not identify the person who provided the illegal
12 drugs and successfully complete a drug treatment
13 program should be suspended from play for a mini-
14 mum of one year without pay.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

16 In this resolution, the term “illegal drug” means a
17 substance listed as a controlled substance under schedules
18 I through V of section 202 of the Controlled Substances
19 Act (21 U.S.C. 812).

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