

H. Res. 496

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

July 22, 2002.

Whereas studies have shown an alarming increase in steroid use among children, who may be modeling their behavior after professional athletes;

Whereas one report said that steroid use by high school boys was as high as 12 percent;

Whereas earlier this year, 2 retired Major League Baseball players, each having been a Most Valuable Player, admitted to steroid use, unleashing a wave of articles about rampant use throughout the league;

Whereas the stories have focused on the muscle-enhancing aspect of steroids, linking it to a surge in power hitting among many players;

Whereas the Nation's children are receiving the wrong message, namely that drug use is not only permissible, but desirable if an individual wants to perform at his or her best;

Whereas the truth is that steroids are dangerous and harmful to an individual's health and have no place in our national pastime or the lives of the Nation's children;

Whereas other professional sports, notably football, basketball, and even the Olympics, already ban steroids, a dan-

gerous drug that often causes liver damage, kidney failure, heart disease, and brain tumors;

Whereas although steroid use is illegal without a doctor's prescription, the failure in Major League Baseball to test for such use has led to speculation that steroids are widely abused by many of today's players;

Whereas professional baseball players have tremendous influence on children and therefore have an obligation to attempt to be good role models;

Whereas the question of rampant, systemic steroid abuse now hangs over a game that the people of the United States love; and

Whereas instituting mandatory steroid testing will send the right message to the public, namely that Major League Baseball is serious about banning steroids and will continually work to protect the integrity of the game: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association should implement a mandatory steroid testing program; and

(2) such a program would send a clear message to our Nation's children that steroids are dangerous, illegal,

and morally offensive to our country's competitive spirit
and one of our most cherished sports.

Attest:

Clerk.