

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 373

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Women's United Soccer Association.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Women's United Soccer Association.

Whereas on August 24, 2003, the Washington Freedom women's soccer team won the third Women's United Soccer Association championship game;

Whereas the Freedom won the Founders Cup in overtime by a score of 2–1;

Whereas Freedom forwards Mia Hamm and Abby Wambach, and goalkeeper Siri Mullinix, are expected to play with the United States women's national team in the Women's World Cup;

Whereas since the enactment of title IX, girls' high school athletic participation has increased by 847 percent, and

women's college athletic participation has increased by 403 percent;

Whereas women still face financial barriers to participating in athletics, with only 43 percent of the total athletic scholarship dollars going to female athletes;

Whereas a record number of girls and women are playing soccer, with a dramatic growth rate of 24 percent since 1987;

Whereas this growth has far eclipsed that of men players, which grew by 8 percent in the same timeframe;

Whereas women now represent 43 percent of all soccer players in 2002;

Whereas soccer is the second most popular United States team sport behind basketball in 2002;

Whereas the 8-team Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), including the Washington Freedom, suspended operations 5 days before the start of the World Cup; and

Whereas the likely termination of the league now leaves the United States with only one top-tier professional league for women: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates the Washington Freedom
3 women's soccer team for winning the 2003 WUSA
4 title and recognizes the achievements of all the play-
5 ers, coaches, and support staff who were instru-
6 mental in this accomplishment;

7 (2) requests that the President recognize the
8 accomplishments and achievements of the 2003

1 Washington Freedom team and invite them to a
2 White House ceremony for national championship
3 teams;

4 (3) expresses its disappointment with the sus-
5 pension of operations at the WUSA, the world's best
6 soccer league for women; and

7 (4) supports reviving the WUSA to provide an
8 avenue for the next generation of women players.

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