

1 WHEREAS, during the Middle Ages, wrestling remained popular and enjoyed the
2 patronage of many royal houses, including those of France, Japan, and England; and

3 WHEREAS, early American settlers brought a strong wrestling tradition with them
4 from England, and the colonists also found wrestling to be quite popular among the Native
5 Americans; and

6 WHEREAS, amateur wrestling flourished throughout the early years of America and
7 served as a popular activity at country fairs, holiday celebrations, and in military exercises;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, due to what the IOC has classified as "growing cost", the IOC has been
10 faced with the difficult choice of reducing the number of athletes in the summer games; and

11 WHEREAS, core sports would continue indefinitely in future Olympics, but non-
12 core sports would be selected on a game-by-game basis; and

13 WHEREAS, on February 12, 2012, the IOC Executive Board made the ill-advised
14 and ill-fated vote to recommend that wrestling be dropped as a core sport; and

15 WHEREAS, if approved by the full IOC, wrestling, the oldest of core Olympic
16 sports, will have to compete with seven non-core sports, consisting of baseball/softball,
17 squash, karate, sport climbing, wakeboarding, wushu and roller sports for a place in the 2020
18 Olympics; and

19 WHEREAS, wrestling federations exist in approximately 180 countries and the
20 recent London Olympic Games had wrestlers from over 70 countries; and

21 WHEREAS, the Olympics are supposed to be a display of sports from around the
22 world; and

23 WHEREAS, there is not a sport that is more historically global than wrestling; and

24 WHEREAS, every culture and nation throughout history have created their own form
25 of wrestling; and

26 WHEREAS, wrestling has a distinct economic advantage in comparison with other
27 sports; and

28 WHEREAS, wrestling is a sport that costs nothing in which to participate and
29 requires no fancy equipment nor specially designed sports complexes; and

30 WHEREAS, wrestling is a sport where even the poorest of countries and individuals

1 can participate and have success; and

2 WHEREAS, wrestlers learn that long-term success has much more to do with the
3 investment made than the natural gifts one is given; and

4 WHEREAS, wrestlers learn the value of preparation and hard work and the role they
5 play in achieving one's goals; and

6 WHEREAS, wrestling provides real-life experiences that build and strengthen
7 participants, including: self-reliance, mental fortitude, work ethic, competitive spirit,
8 responsibility, self-discipline, goal orientation, and confidence; and

9 WHEREAS, Dan Gable, an Olympic gold medalist and former U.S. Olympic
10 wrestling coach, succinctly summarized wrestling's character building characteristics when
11 he stated, "Once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easy"; and

12 WHEREAS, many CEOs, high-level business people, and other successful
13 individuals have stated that they owe their work ethic to the rigorous training and
14 maintenance schedule that they learned in wrestling; and

15 WHEREAS, wrestling is also one of the most popular youth sports in the United
16 States, with nearly 275,000 competitors from 2010 to 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, the personal nature of the sport as well as the rigorous training required
18 have been attributed to building the confidence of its participants; and

19 WHEREAS, involvement in wrestling is a great way to develop the ability to defend
20 one's self, without resorting to the violent tactics inherent in most other forms of self-
21 defense; and

22 WHEREAS, the decision to phase out wrestling will have a detrimental impact on
23 many teams around the world, including the United States, whose wrestling medals are only
24 outnumbered by swimming and track and field; and

25 WHEREAS, the Olympics are the ultimate goal for every young wrestler; and

26 WHEREAS, Olympic Wrestling competition is the final stage for most wrestlers, and
27 removing it from the Olympics would destroy the dreams of young wrestlers across the
28 world who toil day after day chasing this dream; and

29 WHEREAS, not having wrestling at the Olympics will cripple the sport at the lower
30 level and ruin the dreams and ambitions of thousands of devoted athletes; and

1 WHEREAS, wrestling is, at its core, one of the most fundamental sports in which
2 man has ever engaged and is the most primal and purest form of one-on-one competition
3 known to mankind; and

4 WHEREAS, removing wrestling from the Olympics would be a huge travesty in light
5 of its contribution to the history of not only sports, but to the history of mankind as well; and

6 WHEREAS, the governors of thirty-three states with rich wrestling traditions,
7 including Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, expressed their concerns regarding the recent
8 decision by the IOC to remove wrestling as an Olympic sport in the 2020 Olympic Games
9 and strongly urge the IOC to reconsider its position and vote to extend wrestling's long
10 legacy within the Olympic Games.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 urge and request the International Olympic Committee to reconsider its position on Olympic
13 Wrestling.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 International Olympic Committee, the Association of National Olympic Committees and the
16 Pan American Sports Organization.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

DIGEST

Claitor

SCR No. 11

Requests the International Olympic Committee to reconsider its position on Olympic Wrestling.