

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 29

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a national summit of sports, political, community, and media leaders should be promptly convened to develop a multifaceted action plan to deter acts of violence, especially domestic violence and sexual assault.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mrs. MORELLA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that a national summit of sports, political, community, and media leaders should be promptly convened to develop a multifaceted action plan to deter acts of violence, especially domestic violence and sexual assault.

Whereas involvement in sports commonly places individuals in a unique context of competition that provides an opportunity to teach, learn, and hone qualities of responsible citizenship, including values that promote self-respect and respect for others, and deter acts of violence, especially domestic violence and sexual assault;

Whereas professional and amateur athletes and sports coaches are role models with great national influence and have

helped to positively shape the lives of countless individuals;

Whereas professional and amateur athletes, and sports coaches, administrators, volunteers, and team owners have participated in a variety of outstanding and valuable community service projects throughout the Nation;

Whereas many professional and amateur sports organizations have instituted educational programs and other measures to deter and sanction misconduct, including abuse of legal and illegal drugs, illegal gambling, discriminatory practices, and other unethical behavior;

Whereas acts of domestic violence and sexual assault are serious, indefensible crimes;

Whereas acts of domestic violence and sexual assault committed by athletes are often not taken seriously and go unpunished, sending an insidious and harmful message that this behavior is excusable and is not criminal;

Whereas most athletes do not commit acts of domestic violence or sexual assault and these athletes, as role models, can have a profound impact in deterring others from committing acts of domestic violence and sexual assault;

Whereas there exists a Citizenship Through Sports Alliance that is made up of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Junior College Athletic Association, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the National Federation of State High School Associations, the United States Olympic Committee, Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League; and

Whereas the Congress supports the existing activities of the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance and its member organizations and encourages a broader array of efforts to promote responsible citizenship by teaching administrators, coaches, and athletes values that will help all who participate in our Nation's sports culture to become better citizens: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) a national summit should be promptly convened to develop a multifaceted action plan to deter
4 acts of violence, especially domestic violence and sexual
5 assault;
6

7 (2) the members of the national summit referred to in paragraph (1) should include—

9 (A) sports, community, political, and media
10 leaders;

11 (B) individuals with experience in youth
12 advocacy;

13 (C) individuals with experience in
14 antiviolence advocacy;

15 (D) members of the Citizenship Through
16 Sports Alliance;

17 (E) Members of Congress; and

18 (F) other governmental and community
19 leaders with specific expertise in education and
20 advocacy programs that serve to deter acts of

1 violence, especially domestic violence and sexual
2 assault;

3 (3) the action plan referred to in paragraph (1)
4 should—

5 (A) be designed to encourage the participa-
6 tion of all administrators, coaches, and athletes,
7 from those involved in youth leagues to those
8 who are involved in professional sports;

9 (B) emphasize and promote values such as
10 self-respect and respect for others, tolerance,
11 non-discrimination, and gender equality as well
12 as teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and com-
13 mitment;

14 (C) encourage and promote participation in
15 sports as a positive character building activity;

16 (D) promote a sports culture that encour-
17 ages integrity, honesty, fairness, inclusion, tol-
18 erance, nonviolence, and a commitment to excel-
19 lence; and

20 (E) include a high-profile public education
21 program and media campaign to deter acts of
22 violence, especially domestic violence and sexual
23 assault; and

1 (4) the members of the national summit re-
2 ferred to in paragraph (1), and other sports, com-
3 munity, political and media leaders should assume
4 leadership roles deterring acts of domestic violence
5 and sexual assault and should support the measures
6 developed by the national summit referred to in
7 paragraph (1).

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