

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 47

Recognizing the International Olympic Committee for its work to bring about understanding of individuals and different cultures, for its focus on protecting the civil rights of its participants, for its rules of intolerance against discriminatory acts, and for its goal of promoting world peace through sports.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2001

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BREAUX) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the International Olympic Committee for its work to bring about understanding of individuals and different cultures, for its focus on protecting the civil rights of its participants, for its rules of intolerance against discriminatory acts, and for its goal of promoting world peace through sports.

Whereas the United States has been actively engaged as a member of the International Olympic Committee (in this resolution referred to as the “IOC”), which was formed in 1894 to implement the goals of modern Olympism;

Whereas the Olympic Charter for the IOC contains fundamental principles of modern Olympism, including—

(1) “Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles”;

(2) “The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity”;

(3) “The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play”;

(4) “The activity of the Olympic movement . . . reaches its peak with the bringing together of athletes of the world at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games”;

Whereas the IOC has adopted a Code of Ethics that recognizes the dignity of the individual as one of its primary guarantees;

Whereas to safeguard the dignity of participants, the IOC's rules require nondiscrimination on "the basis of race, sex ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or other grounds";

Whereas the IOC's Code of Ethics specifically prohibits any "practice constituting any form of physical or mental injury" and "all forms of harassment against participants, be it physical, mental, professional or sexual";

Whereas an integral part of the IOC's Olympic Charter, Code of Ethics, and rules requires the following of strict guidelines in selecting a host city for an Olympic Games;

Whereas included in the IOC's rules are comprehensive and precise selection criteria and methods by which to assess a candidate's application;

Whereas the IOC's Evaluations Commission evaluates and compares, among the candidates, 11 different areas of site analysis, including government support and public opinion, critical infrastructure availability, finance, security, and experience;

Whereas the IOC has made environmental conservation the third pillar of Olympism, with the other pillars being sport and culture;

Whereas the IOC requires host cities to conduct an environmental impact statement, consult with environmental organizations, and implement an environmental action plan for the Olympic Games;

Whereas a primary goal of the IOC is world peace and understanding, and, in pursuit of the goal, the IOC strives to maintain a separation of sports from international politics;

Whereas the IOC’s Olympic Charter, Code of Ethics, and rules consistently address the IOC’s quest to separate politics and sports;

Whereas Rule 9 of the IOC’s Olympic Charter states that “the Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries”;

Whereas new members of the IOC take an oath upon membership that avers in part “to comply with the Code of Ethics, to keep myself free from any political or commercial influence”;

Whereas the IOC’s Code of Ethics states that “the Olympic parties shall neither give nor accept instructions to vote or intervene in a given manner with the organs of the IOC”;

Whereas the IOC is involved in humanitarian affairs through its involvement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, International Labour Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross; and

Whereas following the issuance of the Report of the Special Bid Oversight Commission, the “Mitchell Commission”, both the United States Olympic Committee and the IOC ratified a number of reforms regarding the selection of Olympic Games host cities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*

2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the IOC for the Committee’s—

4 (A) work to bring about understanding of

5 individuals and different cultures;

1 (B) focus on protecting the civil rights of
2 its participants;

3 (C) rules of intolerance against discrimina-
4 tory acts; and

5 (D) goal of promoting world peace through
6 sports;

7 (2) encourages members of the IOC from the
8 United States to abide by all rules of the IOC when
9 considering and voting for host cities for future
10 Olympic Games;

11 (3) recognizes that any government action des-
12 ignating a preference or displeasure with any Olym-
13 pic Games candidate host city is inconsistent with
14 the IOC's Olympic Charter, Code of Ethics, and
15 rules; and

16 (4) endorses the concept of the Olympic Games
17 being a competition between athletes in individual or
18 team events and not between countries.

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