

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 350

Introduced by Larson, 40; Janssen, 15; Nordquist, 7; Watermeier, 1.

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has proposed eliminating the sport of wrestling from the Summer Olympic Games beginning in 2020, and the IOC will vote on the proposal at its September 2013 general assembly; and

WHEREAS, wrestling was one of the original sports of the ancient Greek Olympic Games and of the first modern Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, wrestling has been a traditional strength of the United States Olympic Team, with 124 medals having been awarded to the United States throughout history; and

WHEREAS, the sport of wrestling builds great strength not only of body, but also of character, including the virtues of self-confidence, self-discipline, courage, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, wrestling has produced many outstanding national leaders including Presidents, United States Supreme Court justices, United States senators, members of Congress, business and military leaders, as well as many outstanding leaders in the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, wrestling provides mainstream opportunities to athletes of all physical builds and body sizes, including blind, deaf, and physically handicapped student athletes who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in athletics; and

WHEREAS, according to the Nebraska School Activities Association, 4,679 students competed in wrestling for the 2012-13 season; and

WHEREAS, many of these Nebraska athletes dream of representing the United States on the international stage at the Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Dan Brand, Jordan Burroughs, Jim Scherr, Bill Scherr, Rulon Gardner, Matt Lindland, and Brad Vering are seven Olympians who have represented Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature urges the International Olympic Committee to reinstate wrestling as a core sport at the Summer Olympic Games.

2. That the Legislature thanks the United States Olympic Committee for its continued support of wrestling and urges the committee to work actively toward the reinstatement of Olympic wrestling.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the International Olympic Committee and the United States Olympic Committee.