ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: requesting the International Olympic Committee to keep wrestling in the Olympic Games.

Whereas, the executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reviewed 26 sports on its summer program and decided to cut wrestling, stunning the world's wrestlers, who see their sport as popular and steeped in history as old as the Olympics themselves; and

Whereas, while wrestling will be included at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, it will not be included in the 2020 Olympic Games; and

Whereas, the executive board of the IOC voted after reviewing an IOC program commission report that analyzed 39 criteria, including TV ratings, ticket sales, global participation, and popularity; and

Whereas, according to IOC documents, wrestling ranked "low" in several of the technical criteria; and

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

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

Whereas, Wisconsin has a rich tradition of wrestling excellence and has produced many Olympic medalists; and

Whereas, wrestling is a diverse, popular, and historic sport, and it is fitting and proper that the IOC keep wrestling in the Olympic Games after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the legislature strongly urge the International Olympic Committee to keep wrestling in the Olympic Games after the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk is authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the executive board of the International Olympic Committee.

_____
Representative Robin J. Vos
Speaker of the Assembly

            _____
Senator Michael G. Ellis
President of the Senate

_____
Date

            _____
Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk