

**Introduced by Senator Correa**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo and V. Manuel Pérez)

March 14, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to Olympic wrestling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 26, as introduced, Correa. Wrestling: Olympic Games.

This measure would urge the International Olympic Committee to continue to include wrestling as a core sport of the Olympic Games.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The International Olympic Committee (IOC)  
2 Executive Board recently announced that wrestling will be removed  
3 from the list of 25 core sports at the 2020 Olympic Games, though  
4 this is not final; and

5 WHEREAS, The IOC Executive Board will meet in May 2013  
6 in St. Petersburg, Russia, to decide which sport or sports to propose  
7 for inclusion, and the entire IOC will vote on the final program at  
8 the IOC session, or general assembly, in September 2013 in Buenos  
9 Aires, Argentina; and

10 WHEREAS, Wrestling was one of the original sports in the  
11 ancient Olympic Games in Greece. During the ancient Olympic  
12 Games, beginning in 708 B.C., wrestling was the decisive  
13 discipline of the Pentathlon. It was the last discipline of the games  
14 to be held, after the discus, the javelin, the long jump, and the  
15 footrace, and its winner was designated the winner of the  
16 Pentathlon, the only crowned athlete of the games; and

1 WHEREAS, Wrestling is one of the most diverse sports in the  
2 world, with nearly 200 nations from all continents participating in  
3 the sport; and

4 WHEREAS, Wrestling is an inclusive sport that provides  
5 opportunities worldwide, regardless of geography, race, gender,  
6 or physical characteristics, and provides mainstream opportunities  
7 to athletes of all physical builds and body sizes, including the blind,  
8 deaf, and physically handicapped student athletes who may not  
9 otherwise have the opportunity to participate in athletics; and

10 WHEREAS, Wrestling builds great strength, not only of body,  
11 but also of character, including the virtues of self-confidence,  
12 self-discipline, courage, and leadership, and wrestling is recognized  
13 for serving communities throughout the nation by partnering with  
14 law enforcement, schools, and churches to provide programs to  
15 prevent and neutralize juvenile delinquency, especially gang-related  
16 crimes for many at-risk youth; and

17 WHEREAS, Wrestling has produced many outstanding national  
18 leaders, including Presidents of the United States, justices of United  
19 States Supreme Court, members of the United States Congress,  
20 and business and military leaders, and many outstanding leaders  
21 in California, including many Olympic champions, such as  
22 Olympic gold medalists Dave and Mark Schultz and 2012 Olympic  
23 gold medalist Jake Varner; and

24 WHEREAS, More than 70 countries competed in wrestling in  
25 London at the 2012 Olympic Games with more Olympic medals  
26 awarded to a greater variety of nations than in almost any other  
27 sport; and

28 WHEREAS, California is the leading state in athlete membership  
29 for USA Wrestling and the state with the largest participation in  
30 high school wrestling; and

31 WHEREAS, Wrestling has become a pathway to higher  
32 education for many young Californians, in particular, those with  
33 a socioeconomically challenged background; and

34 WHEREAS, Many of these young Californians dream of  
35 representing the United States on the international stage at the  
36 Olympic Games; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
38 *thereof concurring,* That the California Legislature urges the  
39 International Olympic Committee to continue to include wrestling  
40 as a core sport of the Olympic Games; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2     this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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