

By: Flynn

H.C.R. No. 167

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Recent congressional hearings into the use of
2 anabolic steroids by high-profile professional athletes have
3 highlighted widespread concerns about the prevalence of such
4 substance abuse, including the degree to which the practice has
5 filtered down to high school athletes and even to younger middle
6 school students influenced by older role models; and

7 WHEREAS, Although these steroids are known to have numerous
8 adverse physical and psychological side effects, this knowledge has
9 done little to deter use of the drugs by athletes at all levels of
10 competition seeking a shortcut to becoming bigger and stronger or
11 to gaining a competitive edge on the field, court, or track or in
12 the pool; and

13 WHEREAS, In the past, steroid use was a phenomenon largely
14 confined to competitors in collegiate, Olympic, and professional
15 sports; today, however, steroids are being used by athletes and
16 nonathletes alike in high schools and even in middle schools across
17 the country, and evidence suggests that steroid use among
18 teenagers, and especially among aspiring athletes, is a large and
19 growing problem; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
21 Prevention, more than 500,000 high school students have tried
22 steroids, nearly three times the number just 10 years ago; the most
23 recent survey funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
24 found that more than 40 percent of high school seniors described

1 steroids as fairly easy or very easy to obtain; and

2 WHEREAS, That same NIDA survey, Monitoring the Future 2004,
3 found that the percentage of students who perceived steroid use as
4 harmful fell from 71 percent in 1992 to just 56 percent in 2004;
5 this diminished perception of harm is especially worrisome, since
6 steroids are particularly dangerous to adolescents at this stage in
7 their development; and

8 WHEREAS, Even small doses of the drug can stop growth
9 prematurely, and the risk of permanent physical impairment is
10 compounded by the fact that adolescents who use steroids also may be
11 at risk of becoming dependent on the drug and are more likely to use
12 other addictive drugs and alcohol; and

13 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature currently is considering
14 measures to implement steroid testing programs for students engaged
15 in extracurricular activities, but more information regarding the
16 extent of the problem statewide would enable the legislature to
17 address the issue with a more comprehensive approach; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
21 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study the
22 issue of anabolic steroid use and abuse in Texas public schools;
23 and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
25 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim
26 committees as the 79th Legislature may adopt and that such rules and
27 policies supersede the provisions of this resolution to the extent

1 of any conflict; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
3 findings and recommendations, to the 80th Texas Legislature when it
4 convenes in January 2007.