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H.R. No. 1593

R E S O L U T I O N

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

7 WHEREAS, Developed in the 1930s to treat certain
8 developmental abnormalities, anabolic steroids found their way
9 outside the medical arena, first in the 1950s as bodybuilders and
10 weightlifters discovered the compounds enabled them to gain
11 strength and muscle mass more quickly than was possible through
12 training and diet alone and later when athletes in other sports came
13 to believe that using the drugs would boost their performance; and

14 WHEREAS, Although these steroids are known to have numerous
15 adverse physical and psychological side effects, this knowledge did
16 little to deter use of the drugs by athletes seeking a shortcut to
17 becoming bigger and stronger or to gain a competitive edge on the
18 field, court, track, or in the pool; and

19 WHEREAS, In the past, steroid use was a phenomenon largely
20 confined to competitors in collegiate, Olympic, and professional
21 sports, where concern about the impact of such drug use led most
22 major professional and amateur athletic organizations, including
23 the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the International
24 Olympic Committee, and the National Football League, to ban steroid

1 use by their athletes; today, however, steroids are being used by
2 athletes and nonathletes alike in high schools and even in middle
3 schools across the country, and evidence suggests that steroid use
4 among teenagers, and especially among aspiring athletes, is a large
5 and growing problem; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, more than 500,000 high school students have tried
8 steroids, nearly three times the number just 10 years ago; the most
9 recent survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the
10 University of Michigan, who have studied the extent of drug use
11 among high school students each year since 1975, found that more
12 than 40 percent of high school seniors described steroids as fairly
13 easy or very easy to obtain; and

14 WHEREAS, That same NIDA survey, Monitoring the Future 2004,
15 found that the percentage of students who perceived the harm in
16 steroid use fell from 71 percent in 1992 to just 56 percent in 2004;
17 this diminished perception of harm is especially worrisome, since
18 steroids are particularly dangerous to adolescents at this stage in
19 their development; even small doses of the drug can stop growth
20 prematurely, and the risk of permanent physical impairment is
21 compounded by the fact that adolescents who use steroids also may be
22 at risk of becoming dependent on the drug and are more likely to use
23 other addictive drugs and alcohol; and

24 WHEREAS, There are social consequences as well; in 1991,
25 Congress added anabolic steroids to the Controlled Substances Act
26 as a Schedule III drug, making it illegal to possess or sell them
27 without a valid prescription and allowing for the arrest of persons

1 charged with illegal possession of a classified substance; since
2 1989, Texas statutes have similarly prohibited any nonmedical use
3 of anabolic steroids; and

4 WHEREAS, Section 481.071(c), Health and Safety Code,
5 specifically states that bodybuilding, muscle enhancement, or
6 increasing muscle bulk or strength is not a valid medical purpose
7 for anabolic steroid use by a healthy individual; Section 38.008,
8 Education Code, requires each public middle and high school to post
9 a notice to this effect, including notice that a violation of Texas
10 steroid law is a criminal offense punishable by a jail or prison
11 sentence; and

12 WHEREAS, Given the increased attention to and concern about
13 adolescent use of anabolic steroids, the 79th Texas Legislature
14 currently is considering legislative measures specifically
15 addressing steroid use by students engaged in extracurricular
16 activities, but a law, once passed requires strict and certain
17 enforcement if it is to have any effect; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
19 Legislature hereby direct law enforcement agencies in this state to
20 enforce laws prohibiting the illegal use of anabolic steroids by
21 public school students engaged in extracurricular activities.