

R041-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DRUG**
20 **TESTING OF PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES IN THE UNITED STATES**

30 **WHEREAS:** There is a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) who has jurisdiction in the
40 drug testing of athletes involved in international competition in terms of testing
50 and punishment for positive tests; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) is responsible for
70 testing all USA athletes who participate in all Olympic, Pan-American, and
80 Para-Olympic athletes in all domestic and international competition; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** WADA has a published 44 page document entitled the World Doping code, used
100 in international procedures; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** In our country, only those athletes who take part in the Olympic variety sports
120 like cycling and track and field are tested on as regular as a monthly basis; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** According to TSN, a national sports network in Canada, akin to ESPN here in
140 the US, reports that cold medication is rampantly used in the National Hockey
150 League (NHL), according to a recent survey of it's over 800 players; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** These medications contain ephedrine and epinephrine (adrenaline) which gives
170 the body an intense and systemic "high," which aids in helping with muscle
180 fatigue and pain during conditioning; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** The National Basketball Association (NBA), whose issues aren't steroids as
200 much as marijuana and other illegal drugs, test players on a quota system, of
210 randomly selected players; and,

220 **WHEREAS:** There is a pretty weak penalty for a positive test; after testing positive 3 times,
230 the athlete is suspended 5 games at a maximum, losing only a mere 6.1% of his
240 pay; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** Major League Baseball's (MLB) drug issues have been documented over the
260 past few months, involving Congressional hearings and public outcry; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** The outcome was a progressive punishment structure involving 5 proverbial
280 'strikes' before the athlete is considered for more than a 50 game ban by the
290 league commissioner; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** The National Football League (NFL) has the harshest penalty for positive testing
310 of any drug, with the first strike resulting in immediate forced rehabilitation, the
320 second test a 4 game suspension (25% of season), a third strike being an 8 game
330 suspension (50%), and the third being an entire year out and a decision on the
340 players future by the commissioner; and,

350 **WHEREAS:** The Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour, American Volleyball
360 Professionals (AVP) tour, Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour, and
370 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour have no solid drug enforcement
380 plans that model their inherent international nature, as they are very multi-
390 national sports; and,

400 **WHEREAS:** Major League Soccer (MLS) is the only league whose players are tested
410 on a regular basis for all drugs because it is made up of athletes all of
420 international participation and so they are tested mostly during their regular
430 multi-national competition; and,

440 **WHEREAS:** None of the American sports leagues use blood tests; and,

450 **WHEREAS:** Urinalysis can not pick up on the presence of Human Growth Hormone, or
460 HGH, which is only traceable through blood testing; and,

470 **WHEREAS:** HGH is rampantly used through out the athletic community, as seen through the
480 investigations of athletes treated by trainers like those at Bay Area Laboratories
490 Company, or BALCO; and,

500 **WHEREAS:** Steroids and other performance enhancers have been shown to have harmful
510 effects on the body, including cancers of different varieties like in the case of
520 Lyle Alzado, who played linebacker for the Los Angeles Raiders in the
530 1980s; and,

540 **WHEREAS:** Other effects include heart and liver damage, impairment of judgment,
550 psychosis, shrunken testicles, mammary gland damage, and dangerous levels of
560 testosterone; and,

570 **WHEREAS:** Whether an American professional athlete wants to admit it or not, they are
580 role models to millions of youth—what they do, their fans will follow; and,

590 **WHEREAS:** Seeing players Mark McGuire, Sammy Sosa, Barry Bonds, Kyle Turley, Todd
600 Sauerbrun, and others succeed due to size causes young fans to want to pursue
610 their idols; and,

620 **WHEREAS:** The recent redesign of MLB’s drug testing plan has already caught 2 major
630 leaguers and 39 minor leaguers, showing that newer systems can work, but if
640 implemented more strictly the results would be even more damning to how
640 much of a problem this is in professional sports in this country; and,

650 **WHEREAS:** The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), the National
660 Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and the National Junior
670 Collegiate Athletics Association (NJCAA) have policies that are keeping
680 steroids out, for the most part, of college sports.

690 **WHEREAS:** The cleansing of the sports world would make it a fair realm, as no one will be
700 trying to get an edge by using performance enhancers; and,

710 **WHEREAS:** It will take the media focus away from drugging and doping, and put it back on
720 the track of reporting what actually happened on the field of play from, day to
730 day, instead of what is becoming an epidemic of a police blotter each day; and,

740 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
750 heads of the major professional sports organizations and their minor league
760 partners to allow them to become part of the scope of the USADA and WADA
770 anti-doping jurisdiction, and that the leagues agree to adopt the World Anti-
780 Doping Code as their official doping policy; and,

790 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the leagues, under this proposed allegiance with
800 USADA, agree to make their players take not only scheduled urinalysis tests,
810 but be under scrutiny of blood tests as well; and,

820 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the tests off all athletes be made public in
830 accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as the USADA is a
840 governmental agency operating with in the legal rights of any citizen interested
850 in test outcomes; and,

860 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That each sports players association be fully cooperative in
870 allowing its players to be tested, as the owners in each league will be equally
880 involved in voluntarily letting every player, including even the biggest stars, to
890 undergo these testing procedures.

900 **MANDATES:** MLB Commissioner Bud Selig
910 MLBPA Chairman Donald Fehr
920 NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman
940 NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue
960 NBA Commissioner David Stern
980 PGA Commissioner Tim Finchem
940 ATP CEO Mark Miles
950 WADA Chairman Richard Pound
960 USADA Chairman Ralph Hale
980 Representative Tom Davis, Chair House Government Reform Committee Chair

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