



HR1236

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Pontiac Township High  
4 School (PTHS) on receiving national recognition from Special  
5 Olympics North America and ESPN for its efforts to provide  
6 inclusive sports and activities for all students; and

7           WHEREAS, Out of more than 400 Illinois schools  
8 participating in Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools  
9 programming, PTHS is one of four receiving national banner  
10 recognition; and

11           WHEREAS, To qualify for the Special Olympics award, the  
12 unified sports program had to meet ten strict criteria in areas  
13 related to youth engagement, unified sports, and whole-school  
14 involvement; the unified sports program also had to prove  
15 sustainability; the program is funded through an annual "Run  
16 for Respect 5k"; and

17           WHEREAS, PTHS began a Peers in Action Program in 1996 and  
18 joined Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools in 2012; the  
19 program has grown, and PTHS now offers Unified Soccer, Unified  
20 Basketball, Unified Bass Fishing, and Special Olympics Track  
21 and Field; and

1           WHEREAS, In addition to the athletic programs offered, the  
2 unified sports program involves the whole community through a  
3 "Fish for Respect" fishing tournament, a community day at Dairy  
4 Queen, and multiple other community-wide and county-wide  
5 initiatives; and

6           WHEREAS, Furthermore, the unified sports program at PTHS is  
7 being recognized by ESPN as the top school in Illinois for  
8 involving the school as a whole to create supportive classrooms  
9 and opportunities for growth for all students in addition to  
10 the sports opportunities, leadership opportunities, and other  
11 activities offered to Special Olympics athletes; and

12           WHEREAS, Despite the numerous successes of the program,  
13 PTHS is not resting; students, staff, administrators, and  
14 community members continue to brainstorm new ideas for  
15 inclusion; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 congratulate the students and staff of PTHS, as well as the  
19 supportive community of Pontiac, for achieving national  
20 recognition from Special Olympics North America and ESPN for  
21 their work providing opportunities in athletics, leadership,  
22 and social events for all students; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we wish them continued success in their  
2 efforts and hold PTHS as an example for other schools to  
3 follow; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 delivered to the United Champion Schools Site Coordinator,  
6 Laura Baumgardner, as a symbol of our esteem and respect.