



HR0962

LRB102 29134 LAW 41069 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Simeon Career Academy
4 boys basketball team, the Wolverines, on the occasion of its
5 historic visit to Senegal; and

6 WHEREAS, The Wolverines spent six days in the West African
7 country of Senegal, making history in the process by becoming
8 the first team and first group of people to bring a group of
9 young Black men to that part of Africa; and

10 WHEREAS, The Wolverines' trip came to fruition thanks to
11 Tim Flowers, a Simeon alumnus who will succeed longtime coach
12 Robert Smith after next season, the sponsorship of Simeon
13 alumnus and NBA player Derrick Rose, and the support of fellow
14 assistant coaches Joshua Davis and Jaleni Neely; and

15 WHEREAS, The Wolverines' Senegal-bound group included the
16 four aforementioned men, a group of chaperones, and 14 members
17 of the team; the group also included former Chicago Bulls
18 teammates and NBA All-Stars Joakim Noah and Luol Deng; and

19 WHEREAS, The Wolverines immersed themselves in Senegalese
20 culture by trying local cuisine, visiting museums and
21 landmarks, and sightseeing; the group also visited NBA Academy

1 Africa, an elite training center in Senegal for the top male
2 and female basketball prospects from throughout the continent;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Wolverines additionally visited Gorée Island,
5 a tiny island off the coast of Senegal known for its role in
6 the Atlantic slave trade, further providing the team with an
7 eye-opening experience; and

8 WHEREAS, By visiting Senegal, the Wolverines were given
9 the opportunity to bond from their shared cultural experience
10 and return stronger as a team based on friendship and
11 brotherhood; and

12 WHEREAS, Coach Flowers has expressed hopes to make Senegal
13 an annual trip; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate the Simeon Career Academy boys basketball
17 team, the Wolverines, on its historic visit to Senegal, and we
18 wish the team continued success; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Wolverines as an expression of our esteem and
21 respect.