

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Armand "Mondo" Duplantis former Louisiana State University track athlete on setting new world indoor records for the pole vault.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Armand "Mondo" Duplantis, a former member of the track and field team at
3 Louisiana State University (LSU), on breaking the world indoor record in the pole
4 vault in successive international track and field competitions.

5 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, a Lafayette, Louisiana, native and former LSU
6 athlete, represents his mother's native country of Sweden in international competition since
7 he maintains dual citizenship, and he is the reigning European champion; and

8 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis broke the world indoor record in the pole vault, which
9 had stood since 2014, with a vault of 20.14 feet (6.17 meters) on February 8, 2020, at the
10 World Athletics Indoor Tour in Torun', Poland; and

11 WHEREAS, merely one week later, at the Indoor Grand Prix meet in Glasgow,
12 Scotland, on February 15, 2020, Mondo Duplantis vaulted beyond the world record height
13 again to clear 20.28 feet (6.18 meters) breaking his own record by a centimeter; and

14 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, referred to in *The New York Times* as "the Tiger
15 Woods of pole vaulting", is clearly in excellent form to compete for a gold medal at the 2020
16 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, later this year; and

17 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis had set as a goal being the world record holder in the
18 pole vault going into the Olympic games this summer, and he accomplished that by setting

1 these consecutive world record heights; and

2 WHEREAS, on his way to this world record, Mondo Duplantis garnered several titles
3 and records, including being named *Track & Field* High School Boys Athlete of the Year
4 in both 2017 and 2018, before moving on to LSU; and

5 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis, who set his first age group world best at age seven
6 and was a stellar athlete at LSU, appears to have a brilliant career ahead of him,
7 internationally; and

8 WHEREAS, Mondo Duplantis broke both records at indoor meets and told the
9 British Broadcasting Company (BBC), "I'm excited for the outdoor season"; and

10 WHEREAS, with back-to-back record-setting victories, Mondo Duplantis appears
11 poised to rise to the pinnacle of his sport of pole vaulting with an Olympic gold medal to
12 accompany his world records and to take his LSU and Louisiana fans along with him in that
13 quest for continued world pole vault dominance; and

14 WHEREAS, as the youngest child of LSU track and field stars, Greg and Helena
15 Hudlund Duplantis, a pole vaulter and a heptathlete and volleyball player, respectively, who
16 met while attending LSU, Mondo was destined to have both an interest in sports and some
17 innate athletic ability; and

18 WHEREAS, his parents say that Mondo Duplantis first tried pole vaulting as a
19 three-year-old at home, set his first age group world best at seven, and as of July 2015, he
20 held the world best height in all age groups from age seven to age twelve; and

21 WHEREAS, Mondo is coached by his father and the family has a pole vaulting pit
22 in the back yard of their home in Lafayette; and

23 WHEREAS, one could say that athletic competition is the family "business", with
24 his older brothers, Andreas, a pole vaulter, and Antoine, a baseball player (who became LSU
25 baseball's all-time hits leader last season) who attended LSU on athletic scholarships and
26 Antoine is currently signed with the New York Mets of Major League Baseball; and

27 WHEREAS, in competition in 2019, Mondo Duplantis, a seven-time Louisiana pole
28 vault champion, became the World Silver Medalist, the National Collegiate Athletic
29 Association Indoor Champion (NCAA), and the record holder at 19 feet 5 inches, the
30 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Field Athlete of the Year, both indoor and outdoor, the SEC

