

House Resolution No. 588

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NEELY.

2052H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the University of Missouri-Columbia has a long tradition of athletic
2 achievement in many sports and is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association
3 (NCAA); and
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5 **WHEREAS**, student-athletes at Mizzou spend countless hours maintaining a balance at
6 achieving both academic and athletic excellence and should be commended for their dedication
7 and work ethic; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, the athletic department at Mizzou became aware of irregularities involving
10 a tutor for some of the student-athletes; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, in response to such awareness, the athletic department and administration
13 immediately ended any association with the tutor and began an internal investigation and
14 engaged in a joint investigation with the NCAA; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, the athletic department was open and forthright with both the NCAA and
17 the Southeastern Conference about the allegations; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, unlike other member institutions of the NCAA, Mizzou did not try to
20 obstruct the NCAA investigation and, in fact, cooperated fully with the NCAA; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, there was no evidence in the resulting NCAA investigation that any
23 administrator or university personnel in any way pressured the tutor into completing the student-
24 athletes' work. Rather, the tutor acted of her own accord, and the NCAA report said as much
25 when it indicated that "Missouri did the right thing" in cooperating with its investigation and
26 found fault with the tutor, who received a ten-year show-cause penalty; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, despite the lack of any evidence of systemic problems in the athletic
29 department and having the full cooperation and openness of the University, the NCAA Division
30 I Committee on Infractions handed down a disproportionate penalty to the University of

31 Missouri's football, baseball, and softball programs, including a ban on postseason play for their
32 upcoming seasons as well as limitations on scholarships and recruiting and vacation of some
33 wins and records; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, the penalty is inconsistent and arbitrary when compared with the penalties
36 handed down to other member institutions for far worse offenses and where the institution did
37 not cooperate with the investigation; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, this unjust and harsh penalty demonstrates the continued erosion of the
40 credibility of the NCAA as a governing body for collegiate athletics; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, if this unjust and harsh penalty is not reversed upon appeal by the
43 University of Missouri, then serious questions should be asked about the continued need for the
44 NCAA; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, because of these onerous, unfair, and overly punitive sanctions, student-
47 athletes who were not at fault in the least for the actions of the tutor will be the ones to suffer the
48 punishment and deleterious effect on their collegiate athletic careers; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the decision of the NCAA tells other collegiate programs that doing the
51 right thing and cooperating with an investigation should be the last resort; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, the decision will erode what little faith many people had left in the ability
54 of the NCAA to oversee collegiate athletics; and

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56 **WHEREAS**, it is the duty of this body to speak out and demand the NCAA reverse its
57 decision regarding the University of Missouri:

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59 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
60 of Representatives, One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby remonstrate
61 against the NCAA for its unfair and harsh sanctioning of the athletic department of the
62 University of Missouri-Columbia; and

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
65 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Mark
66 Emmert, President of the NCAA.

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