

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**S. R. No. 95**

**Senator Kunze**

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**A RESOLUTION**

To urge Congress to maintain federal funding for 1  
Special Olympics. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, For more than fifty years, Special Olympics has 3  
helped foster the acceptance and inclusion of individuals with 4  
intellectual disabilities through training, competition, 5  
education, health screenings, and community events; and 6

WHEREAS, The mission of Special Olympics is to provide 7  
year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety 8  
of sports for children and adults with intellectual 9  
disabilities, giving them opportunities to develop physical 10  
fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in 11  
sharing gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other 12  
athletes, and the community; and 13

WHEREAS, Special Olympics involves more than 4.4 million 14  
athletes in 170 countries, including more than 900,000 in North 15  
America; and 16

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Ohio has approximately 200 17  
community partners and serves more than 27,000 athletes; and 18

WHEREAS, Students with and without intellectual 19  
disabilities are also playing and competing together, on the 20  
same team, through Special Olympics Unified Sports; and 21

WHEREAS, Special Olympics offers health events where 22  
athletes receive free health screenings and health education, 23  
and where health professionals are trained to offer year-round 24  
health access to people with intellectual disabilities in their 25  
communities; and 26

WHEREAS, Special Olympics has provided over 58,000 health 27  
screenings and trained over 10,000 health care professionals in 28  
the United States. Globally, Special Olympics has provided over 29  
1.9 million health screenings in over 130 countries and trained 30  
over 220,000 health care professionals; and 31

WHEREAS, Federal funding represents approximately 10% of 32  
the organization's budget; now therefore be it 33

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 34  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge Congress to maintain federal 35  
funding for Special Olympics; and be it further 36

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 37  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and 38  
Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, 39  
to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States 40  
Senate, to Ohio's congressional delegation, and to the news 41  
media of Ohio. 42