

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Delegates Glenn, Anderson, Conaway, Hammen, Harrison, Haynes, Kirk, McHale, Robinson, Stukes, and Tarrant**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Professional Athletes Mentoring Title I Students**

3 FOR the purpose of encouraging the professional athletics community in Maryland to
4 mentor students participating in the federal Title I program.

5 WHEREAS, The federal Title I program began in 1965 as part of the
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is intended to help ensure that all
7 children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education; and

8 WHEREAS, The program, funded at \$12,700,000,000 in fiscal year 2006, is the
9 largest federal program supporting elementary and secondary education and focuses
10 on promoting school-wide reform in high-poverty schools and ensuring students'
11 access to scientifically based instructional strategies and challenging academic
12 content; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 90% of the school systems in the United States receive
14 some sort of Title I funding; and

15 WHEREAS, Maryland students served by Title I funds include children and
16 youth who are homeless, children and youth who have disabilities, children and youth
17 who are neglected, delinquent or at-risk, children in preschool activities, and children
18 and youth who are in academic need; and

19 WHEREAS, Maryland is home to two well-known professional sports teams,
20 the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles; and

21 WHEREAS, Many of our State's elementary students, including Title I
22 students, admire and respond to professional athletes; and

23 WHEREAS, Title I students participating in extracurricular programming
24 stand to benefit from the involvement of our State's professional athletes, some of



1 whom have overcome environmental and socioeconomic challenges similar to those
2 facing our State's Title I students; and

3 WHEREAS, Maryland should be the first state to formally recognize the
4 importance of encouraging professional athletes to forge meaningful, mentorship-style
5 relationships with Title I students; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
7 General Assembly hereby urges the State's professional athletics community to:
8 mentor our State's neediest students, those enrolled in the Title I program, through
9 participation in program activities; spend time listening to the everyday concerns and
10 priorities of our Title I students, attending class or extracurricular activities with
11 these students, and otherwise facilitate the development of the mentoring
12 relationship; and encourage these students to seek out opportunities for upward
13 mobility; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
15 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
16 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
17 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.