

A RESOLUTION honoring the Kentucky High School Athletic Association for over a century of serving students in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) was formed in 1917 by 17 high schools desiring to organize and promulgate rules to manage a state basketball championship; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA conducted its first state boys' basketball championship in 1918 and its first girls' basketball championship in 1920; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA Sweet Sixteen tournaments and their history are woven into the fabric of the state and the single class tournaments rank among the finest of the state's traditions; and

WHEREAS, after adding Track and Field in 1920, the KHSAA quickly grew and added championships in various sports as the interest was expressed by member schools; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA successfully collaborated with the Kentucky High School League to merge the two groups in 1958 to allow for fully integrated competition in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA successfully re-implemented a girls' basketball state championship in 1973 and the event remains a model for the entire country; and

WHEREAS, the history of the KHSAA and all of its sports is also the history of Kentucky dealing with issues such as integration and women's rights; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA has grown to where it now offers championship play in 13 sports and four sport-activities; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA provides leadership opportunities and student benefits through student leadership conferences, scholarship programs, and participation in a variety of athletic and sport-activity programs; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA represents the core value that student participation in education-based interscholastic athletic and activity programs is a privilege that enriches

the educational experience; encourages academic achievement; promotes respect, integrity, and sportsmanship; prepares for the future in a global community; develops leadership and life skills; fosters the inclusion of diverse populations; promotes healthy lifestyles and safe competition; encourages positive school/community culture; and should be fun; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA serves as the leader in promoting and protecting the defining values of education-based interscholastic athletic and activity programs in collaboration with its member state associations; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA serves as the authority on competition rules promoting fair play and seeks to minimize the risk for student participants for education-based interscholastic athletic and activity programs through the adoption of national competition rules and delivery of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA facilitates quality educational programs to serve the changing needs of state associations, administrators, coaches, directors, officials, students, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA promotes the principles of inclusion through the development of adapted and unified opportunities at its championship events for disabled student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA promotes and provides continuous improvement opportunities for member school athletic staff members and coaches; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA promotes lifelong health and safety values through participation; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA promotes cooperation, collaboration, and communication with and between schools; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA collects and provides data on current issues and best practices in order to allow its membership to make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the KHSAA has more than 63,000 students participating in more than

75,000 current opportunities in sports and sport-activities along with 12,000 coaches and 4,500 contest officials;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

→Section 1. The members of this honorable body, both individually and collectively, do hereby recognize and congratulate the KHSAA celebrating over a century of service to the students of this great Commonwealth and look forward to another century in the future.

→Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Representative Rocky Adkins for presentation to the KHSAA.