

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 6, 2013

Dr. Jacques Rogge
President
International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
Case Postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear President Rogge:

We write to express our strong support for the reinstatement of Wrestling as an Olympic Sport in the 2020 Olympic Games. As the International Olympic Committee meets on September 8, 2013 in Buenos Aires to vote on which sport to include, we urge you to consider the historical significance of wrestling and the widespread influence the sport still holds today.

Wrestling's inclusion in the Olympics dates back to 708 BC and the history of wrestling is the history of the Olympics itself. Wrestling was one of the original sports in the ancient Greek Olympic Games and appeared in the first modern Games in 1896. Dropping it from the Olympic lineup would be a blow to the tradition of these games and a disappointment to participants and fans throughout the world.

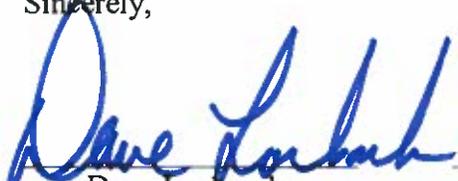
The majority of the world competes in wrestling at a global level, with 177 national federations for the sport. In the 2012 games, 344 wrestlers competed and 29 countries produced medalists in wrestling. Olympic wrestlers from across the world are young people who overcame the odds to rise to greatness.

Many American greats have been role models to young wrestlers both inside out of the ring. Rulon Gardner suffered both a snowmobiling and motorcycle accident after his victory in the 2000 Games, but went on to compete in the 2004 Summer Games. Henry Cejudo was the youngest of six children and grew up in poverty in Los Angeles, but in 2008 became the youngest American to win an Olympic gold medal. Jeff Blatnick came back from a diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma to win gold in the 1984 Games. Wrestling needs to remain a part of the Olympic Games so that young people across the globe continue to have these same opportunities to overcome adversity, pull themselves out of poverty, and inspire the next generation.

The Olympic Games are the embodiment of tradition, the culmination of childhood dreams and the hard work and dedication of athletes to reach the pinnacle of their sport. We believe strongly

that wrestling exemplifies the best of these qualities in athletics. We strongly urge you to maintain wrestling as an Olympic tradition.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress