

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1024

By: Sullivan (Leonard) and
Cargill

A Resolution expressing displeasure at a NCAA rule change allowing Friday night college football games; urging the NCAA to change the rule; urging state college athletic directors not to schedule Friday night college football games; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding tradition in sports that high school football teams play on Friday night, college football teams take the stage on Saturday, and professional football teams play on Sunday; and

WHEREAS, Friday night high school football in Oklahoma is an entrenched part of the culture of the state and serves to bring individuals and communities together for one night a week during the fall; and

WHEREAS, a recent rule change by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) which eliminates a restriction on playing college games that start after 7 p.m. on Fridays threatens to upset the time-honored tradition of Friday night high school football; and

WHEREAS, three college athletic conferences, the Mid-American Conference, Conference USA, and the Mountain West Conference, have already scheduled Friday night football games and are working with ESPN, a sports television network, to televise some Friday night games; and

WHEREAS, several groups, including the American Football Coaches Association and the Southeastern Conference athletic directors, have expressed concern over the NCAA rule change; and

WHEREAS, the decision to play college football on Friday nights will negatively impact high school football as fans will have to decide whether to support their high school football team or their college football team; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the NCAA rule change could have broader impact than just on high school football because in many cases other high school sports rely on money generated by the football team, so lower attendance may have an adverse effect on paying for other high school sports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives expresses its displeasure at the recent action of the National Collegiate Athletic Association to eliminate the restriction on playing college football games on Friday nights.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the National Collegiate Athletic Association to change their rule and reinstate the restriction on Friday night college football games.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the athletic directors for the institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education not to schedule Friday night football games.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and to the athletic directors for the institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 24th day of May, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives