

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating the Indiana University Hoosiers football team on their 2025-2026 College Football Playoff National Championship title and historic 16-0 undefeated season.

BRAY

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION _____

MR. PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION congratulating the Indiana
2 University Hoosiers football team on their 2025-2026 College
3 Football Playoff National Championship title and historic 16-0
4 undefeated season.

5 *Whereas, Indiana University (IU) was founded in 1820*
6 *following a legislative act adopted to establish a state*
7 *seminary, officially changing its name to "Indiana University"*
8 *in 1838;*

9 *Whereas, IU, also known as the Hoosiers, established its*
10 *collegiate football program in 1884, but did not have a full*
11 *team or schedule until the fall of 1895 and was admitted into*
12 *the Western Conference, then known as the Big Nine, to create*
13 *the Big Ten in 1899;*

14 *Whereas, Until 2024, no team in major college football had*
15 *lost more games than the Hoosiers, with more than 700 total*
16 *losses;*

17 *Whereas, Before 2025, the Hoosiers won the Big Ten*
18 *Championship only two other times, first in 1945 and again in*
19 *1967;*



1 *Whereas, Before the 2025-2026 season, the Hoosiers' only*
2 *other Rose Bowl appearance took place in 1968, when they lost*
3 *to the University of Southern California 3-14;*

4 *Whereas, Following the 2023 season, IU Athletic Director*
5 *Scott Dolson sought out an existing offensive-minded head*
6 *coach who had developed quarterbacks and found Curt*
7 *Cignetti;*

8 *Whereas, Beginning in 1983, Cignetti began his long*
9 *history of coaching, having supported programs at Pittsburgh,*
10 *Davidson, Rice, Temple, North Carolina State, Alabama,*
11 *Indiana University Pennsylvania (IUP), Elon, and James*
12 *Madison;*

13 *Whereas, Cignetti has a history of revitalizing programs at*
14 *IUP and Elon, turning around both schools from 4-10 and 4-20*
15 *records, respectively, into winning programs;*

16 *Whereas, In 2024, at the age of 62, Cignetti walked into IU*
17 *to find facilities that appeared neglected, banners that looked*
18 *old, offices appearing from the 1980s, and an overall lack of*
19 *excitement from those he met, and immediately infused energy*
20 *into the football program;*

21 *Whereas, Cignetti immediately returned to fundamentals*
22 *and true coaching by developing talent and creating a program*
23 *that surpassed all expectations, revitalizing the Hoosier*
24 *fanbase, and turning IU into the school with the longest*
25 *winning streak in football, ending the 2025-2026 season 16-0;*

26 *Whereas, After finishing the 2024-2025 season with an 11-2*
27 *record, the Hoosiers climbed from being ranked 20th in the*
28 *2025-2026 preseason poll to eventually spending seven weeks*
29 *ranked 2nd;*

30 *Whereas, After beating the reigning national champions,*
31 *Ohio State University, 13-10 on December 6, 2025, in the Big*



1 *Ten Championship Game, the Hoosiers became the number one*
2 *ranked college football team going into the College Football*
3 *Playoffs;*

4 *Whereas, On New Year's Day, in the Rose Bowl, the*
5 *Hoosiers defeated traditional powerhouse Alabama in a*
6 *blowout by a score of 38-3 surrounded by a thunderous Hoosier*
7 *crowd, with IU center Pat Coogan being named the Offensive*
8 *MVP, the first lineman to win the award since 1944, and*
9 *cornerback D'Angelo Ponds being named the Defensive MVP;*

10 *Whereas, On January 9, 2026, the Hoosiers beat Oregon by*
11 *a score of 56-22 in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, again fully*
12 *surrounded by their Hoosier nation, where quarterback*
13 *Fernando Mendoza was named the Offensive MVP and*
14 *D'Angelo Ponds was named the Defensive MVP;*

15 *Whereas, For the first time in school history, the Hoosiers*
16 *earned a spot in the College Football Playoff National*
17 *Championship game on January 19, 2026, located at Hard*
18 *Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida;*

19 *Whereas, Led by Heisman-winning quarterback Fernando*
20 *Mendoza, the Hoosiers topped the Miami Hurricanes by a score*
21 *of 27-21, completing the first undefeated sixteen-win college*
22 *football season since Yale University in 1894, and coming*
23 *exactly 50 years after Bob Knight's legendary IU basketball*
24 *team went 32-0;*

25 *Whereas, Leading by three with under ten minutes in the*
26 *championship game, Cignetti and Mendoza saw that the team*
27 *needed a spark, and on fourth down, Mendoza tucked the ball,*
28 *broke multiple tackles, and leaped into the endzone, giving the*
29 *Hoosiers a 24-14 lead, which provided enough breathing room*
30 *to hold off the Hurricanes;*

31 *Whereas, In the winding moments of the game, Miami's*
32 *quarterback heaved a long pass downfield, only to be picked off*



1 *by Jamari Sharpe, sealing the Hoosiers victory to cap off a*
2 *storybook season;*

3 *Whereas, Mendoza was again named the Offensive MVP*
4 *and was joined by Mikail Kamara as the Defensive MVP; and*

5 *Whereas, The lore of this undefeated season and team will*
6 *surely go down in Indiana state history and be remembered for*
7 *generations to come, but as Coach Cignetti said, "Chapter 3*
8 *begins tomorrow": Therefore,*

9

10 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
11 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

12 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate congratulates the
13 Indiana University Hoosiers football team on winning the 2025-
14 2026 College Football Playoff National Championship title and
15 their historic 16-0 undefeated season.

16 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
17 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Indiana University
18 President Pamela Whitten, Head Coach Curt Cignetti, and the
19 Indiana University football team.

