

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing Fernando Mendoza for his accomplishments on and off the football field.

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**BRAY, YODER**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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**SENATE RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

MR. PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1           A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing Fernando  
2 Mendoza for his accomplishments on and off the football field.

3           *Whereas, Fernando Mendoza was born October 1, 2003, to*  
4 *Fernando Mendoza, Sr, and Elsa Mendoza;*

5           *Whereas, Fernando attended Christopher Columbus High*  
6 *School in Miami, Florida, where he lettered in tennis, was the*  
7 *campus ministry president, school vice president, social media*  
8 *director for the honors program, helped the Explorers win their*  
9 *first-ever Florida High School Athletic Association Class 8A*  
10 *state championship with a final score of 21 to 20, and*  
11 *completed his high school career with 224 of 332 passing*  
12 *completions for 2,222 yards and 29 touchdowns;*

13           *Whereas, Tabbed as the number 72 quarterback nationally*  
14 *by ESPN, Fernando initially committed to Yale University in*  
15 *2021 before decommitting in 2022 to play for the University of*  
16 *California, Berkeley, also known as Cal;*

17           *Whereas, As a redshirt freshman at Cal in 2023, Fernando*  
18 *appeared in nine games with eight starts, was an honorable*  
19 *mention for Pac-12 Freshman Offensive Player of the Year,*



1        *was an All-Pac-12 team pick by Phil Steele, earned Pac-12 Fall*  
2        *Academic Honor Roll, and was named Cal's Jonathan and Judy*  
3        *Hoff Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year;*

4                *Whereas, During his sophomore season, Fernando started*  
5        *the first 11 games of the season and was a three-time ACC*  
6        *Quarterback of the Week after producing the ninth 3,000-yard*  
7        *passing season in Cal history and finishing top-10 on Cal's*  
8        *single-season passing charts in total offensive yards, passing*  
9        *efficiency, and passing yards with 3,109 yards, 144.59, and*  
10       *3,004 yards, respectively;*

11               *Whereas, Fernando earned his bachelor's degree in*  
12       *business administration from Berkeley's Haas School of*  
13       *Business in 2025 after only three years and completed*  
14       *internships in the summer of 2023 and 2024 at two real estate*  
15       *investment firms while still managing early-morning football*  
16       *training;*

17               *Whereas, Prior to the 2024 LA Bowl, Fernando entered*  
18       *into the transfer portal, where he was recruited to Indiana*  
19       *University;*

20               *Whereas, While at IU, Fernando began pursuing his*  
21       *Master's degree in Business Administration and Management*  
22       *at the Kelley School of Business while taking on a full-time role*  
23       *as IU's top quarterback;*

24               *Whereas, During the 2025 season, Fernando led the*  
25       *Football Bowl Division in passing touchdowns, with 41, led the*  
26       *Power 4 in touchdowns accounted for with 47, all while*  
27       *completing 273 of 379 passing attempts with a 72 percent*  
28       *completion percentage, 3,535 passing yards, six interceptions,*  
29       *276 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns, and a passer*  
30       *rating of 182.9;*

31               *Whereas, While at IU, Fernando racked up numerous*  
32       *awards, including the Maxwell Award and Walter Camp*



1 *National Player of the Year, Davey O'Brien Award, the*  
2 *Manning Award, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Top 5,*  
3 *named first-team All-American from the Associated Press,*  
4 *American Football Coaches Association, Football Writers*  
5 *Association of American and Walter Camp Football*  
6 *Foundation, first-team All-Big Ten, and earned the*  
7 *Grange-Griffin Big Ten Championship Game MVP,*  
8 *Graham-George Offensive Player of the Year, and*  
9 *Griese-Brees Quarterback of the Year;*

10 *Whereas, Culminating an incredible year, Fernando was*  
11 *the first-ever Cuban-American and first-ever Indiana finalist*  
12 *and winner of the Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to the*  
13 *most outstanding NCAA college football player, after receiving*  
14 *643 first choice votes, 191 second place votes, and 51 third*  
15 *place votes, being included in 95.16 percent of the total ballots,*  
16 *tied for the second-highest percentage in history;*

17 *Whereas, Outside of his historic football achievements,*  
18 *Fernando has been consistently supporting local communities*  
19 *and those in need, including coordinating a turkey drive for*  
20 *families in need in Miami-Dade County, being a founding*  
21 *member of They Can Too, a global organization dedicated to*  
22 *helping and spreading awareness for youth in need, organizing*  
23 *a Cuban relief service trip, and being one of three hosts of the*  
24 *2024 Golden Buddies Football Clinic for youth with and*  
25 *without disabilities;*

26 *Whereas, Fernando has elected to enter into the 2026*  
27 *National Football League Draft, and will have an opportunity*  
28 *to continue his football career and expand on his years of*  
29 *dedication to community service; and*

30 *Whereas, Although not a Hoosier by birth, Fernando has*  
31 *quickly demonstrated qualities of a true Hoosier through his*  
32 *grit, determination, selflessness, honor, and community*  
33 *involvement: Therefore,*



1                                    *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*  
2                                    *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

3                                    SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes  
4                                    Fernando Mendoza for his accomplishments on and off the  
5                                    football field and wishes him well as he continues on in the  
6                                    National Football League.

7                                    SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby  
8                                    directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Fernando  
9                                    Mendoza and his family.

