

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATES MARCH 21 “GIRLS WRESTLING DAY”

(HARRISBURG, PA) – The Pennsylvania General Assembly named March 21, 2021 “Pennsylvania Girls' Wrestling Day” and recognized the efforts of Wrestle Like A Girl (WLAG), and the SanctionPA Taskforce in helping to establish girls' wrestling as a sanctioned sport by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Senate Resolution 37 was introduced by Senator Scott Martin, who was himself a PIAA State Champion, NHSCA National Heavyweight Wrestling Champion and ASICS High School All-American.

“Pennsylvania has a rich wrestling tradition that will only grow stronger with the official recognition of girls’ wrestling in the near future,” said Sen. Martin. “We can all look forward to seeing more girls take advantage of the opportunities association with this great sport that allow individuals to achieve tremendous success in life.”

Nationwide, girls' wrestling has been one of the fastest growing high school sports over the past five years and Pennsylvania high school girls' wrestling has seen an approximately 100% increase over those same five years.

The number of girls who wrestle in the Commonwealth has increased from 102 to 229 in just the last year. Female wrestlers represent more than 130 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) member schools and all 12 PIAA district areas have girls' wrestling. The PIAA has stated that at least 100 girls' wrestling teams need to be formed before they can officially sanction the sport and create a State championship for girls' wrestling.

Wrestle Like A Girl has been assisting the grassroots efforts of SanctionPA, a group of wrestling leaders in Pennsylvania, to work toward getting girls' wrestling as a sanctioned sport in the state.

“Pennsylvania’s decision to designate Girls’ Wrestling Day validates the tireless efforts of the wrestlers, families, coaches and leaders who have been so outspoken and passionate in their work to get Girls’ Wrestling sanctioned in the state,” said Sally Roberts, Founder and CEO of Wrestle Like A Girl. “Wrestle Like A Girl is proud to work with so many committed people and thrilled to see the sport getting the recognition it deserves in Pennsylvania.”

Pat Tocci, the Vice-President of SanctionPA, noted that the Resolution acknowledges the efforts of the grassroots SanctionPA movement for girls' wrestling to be officially sanctioned by the PIAA.

“As part of the SanctionPA group, we are very excited to see Senator Scott Martin introduce a resolution designating March 21 as Pennsylvania Girls' Wrestling Day in Pennsylvania in support of the ongoing efforts for the sport to be officially recognized by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA),” Tocci said.

Having the General Assembly acknowledge the grassroots efforts helps all girls' wrestling supporters in the state gain traction. Nine high schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have already established girls' wrestling teams. They are: J.P. McCaskey, Easton, Executive Education Academy, North Allegheny, Central Mountain, Governor Mifflin, Annville-Cleona, Gettysburg and Brandywine Heights.

“I am extremely proud to see PA stakeholders working collaboratively through SanctionPA to move girls wrestling forward in our commonwealth,” said Jon Mitchell, a SanctionPA leader and Athletic Director for J.P. McCaskey High School. “I am honored to have had the opportunity to assist with this effort at JP McCaskey, as the host of the first ever girls' state championship tournament and the first recognized PIAA girls' wrestling team. We look forward to welcoming additional teams in PA and to a sanctioned PIAA state tournament in the near future.”

Nationwide, 29 states have already officially sanctioned Girls' Wrestling.

About Wrestle Like A Girl

Wrestle Like A Girl, Inc. is a 501(c)3 whose mission is to empower girls and women using the sport of wrestling to become leaders in life. More information is available at:

WrestleLikeAGirl.Org.