

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4626, by Representative Pettigrew

1 WHEREAS, Spencer Haywood was born on April 22, 1949, in Silver
2 City, Mississippi and grew up in rural poverty with nine siblings;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, As a teenager, Haywood moved from Mississippi to
5 Chicago, and then to Detroit in order to find greater opportunity;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Haywood began his successful basketball career by
8 leading Pershing High School's team to the state championship, and
9 continued his basketball success while playing for Trinidad Junior
10 College and the University of Detroit; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1969-70 ABA season, Haywood was named the Rookie
12 of the Year and most valuable player (MVP), making him the youngest
13 recipient of the MVP award; and

14 WHEREAS, Haywood went on to compete and win a gold medal with the
15 1968 USA Olympic basketball team; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1970, despite the NBA's then-existing rule requiring
17 a player to be four years out of high school before joining the
18 league, Haywood joined the Seattle SuperSonics and, with SuperSonics
19 owner Sam Schulman, launched an antitrust lawsuit against the NBA in
20 the case *Haywood vs. National Basketball Association* arguing that the
21 four-year rule infringed on Haywood's right to make a living; and

22 WHEREAS, After the NBA threatened punitive actions, Spencer
23 Haywood filed the case *Haywood vs. NBA* and it went all the way to the

1 United States Supreme Court before the NBA agreed to a settlement;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The settlement in *Haywood vs. NBA* resulted in the Early
4 Entry rule, also called the Spencer Haywood Rule, which
5 revolutionized professional basketball by pioneering a path to the
6 professional ranks for high school graduates; and

7 WHEREAS, Haywood used his talents to support his family and to
8 become one of the most distinguished players in the history of the
9 Seattle SuperSonics; and

10 WHEREAS, Haywood led the Seattle SuperSonics to their first ever
11 playoff appearance, made four NBA All-Star Teams, and won an NBA
12 Title towards the end of his career; and

13 WHEREAS, Haywood averaged 24.9 points and 12.1 rebounds per game
14 with the SuperSonics, and accumulated 14,592 points and 7,038
15 rebounds over the course of his career;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
17 honor the life and accomplishments of Spencer Haywood; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend
19 Haywood for his contributions to professional basketball, the Seattle
20 SuperSonics, the city of Seattle, and the State of Washington.

21
22 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
23 Resolution 4626 adopted by the House of Representatives

24 March 14, 2017

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk