

**No. R-31. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal.**

(H.C.R.26)

Offered by All Members of the House

*Whereas*, rugby is not the most commonly played team sport in the United States, but none is more exhilarating or exciting, and no Vermonter or American is more adept on the rugby field than Ilona Maher, and

*Whereas*, Ilona Maher graduated in 2014 from Burlington High School, where she enthusiastically played basketball, field hockey, soccer, and softball, and she started her love affair with rugby as a member of the South Burlington High School's rugby football club, and

*Whereas*, initially attending Norwich University, the Quinnipiac University Bobcats rugby coach recruited her, and for the next three years, she excelled as the Bobcats won three National Intercollegiate Rugby Association (NIRA) women's championships; in each of these years, the NIRA named her to its All-American women's team, and in 2017, the NIRA honored Ilona Maher as the nation's top collegiate women's rugby player, and

*Whereas*, this Quinnipiac University nursing graduate and master's degree graduate of DeVry University debuted as a women's USA Rugby World Cup Sevens team member in 2018 and represented the United States in 2021 at the Tokyo Olympics, and even more exciting was her 2024 Paris Olympics appearance, where the U.S. women's rugby sevens team won its first-ever Olympic medal—a bronze—upon defeating Australia 14–12, and

*Whereas*, following her return from France, Ilona Maher was honored at an ebullient welcome home ceremony in Burlington's Battery Park, and she has used her rugby fame to promote women's sports and body positivity, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Ilona Maher.