

## HR342 INTRODUCED



1 HR342

2 7BRZMVE-1

3 By Representatives Robbins, Shaw, Hulsey, Datcher, Moore (M),  
4 Yarbrough, Tillman, Hendrix, Chestnut, Faulkner, Simpson

5 RFD:

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HR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING ALABAMIANS CHRIS RICHARDS AND TANNER  
TESSMANN FOR REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD  
CUP.

WHEREAS, Chris Richards and Tanner Tessmann are two  
soccer athletes from Alabama who are positioned to be on the  
U.S. roster for this summer's World Cup; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hoover, Chris Richards is  
projected to be the first team captain from Alabama; he has  
been named the 2025 United States Soccer Male Player of the  
Year and now plays for South London team Crystal Palace; and

WHEREAS, in just a few short years, Chris Richards  
has managed to play for teams in three different countries;  
the 26-year-old got his start playing for clubs in Dallas  
and Houston, Texas; after that, he went to Munich and  
Sinsheim, Germany; his first position at his current team,  
Crystal Palace, was as a defensive midfielder rather than  
his preferred center back role; however, these experiences  
perfectly prepared him to be the most important defender for  
the U.S., and on the biggest sports stage in the world; and

WHEREAS, Chris Richards has been instrumental in the  
construction of a new soccer field in front of the historic  
Powell Avenue steam plant in Birmingham's Railroad Park and  
UAB Hospital area; he partnered with Fédération  
Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), soccer's



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29 global governing body, to bring the small-sided field to  
30 downtown Birmingham as part of FIFA's "soccer forward"  
31 campaign; and

32 WHEREAS, also a native of Hoover, Tanner Tessmann was  
33 captain of the 2024 U.S. Olympic soccer team in Paris; he  
34 was also named the 2024 Young Male Player of the Year by the  
35 United States Soccer Federation; and

36 WHEREAS, Tanner Tessmann, a 24-year-old defensive  
37 midfielder, is both a talented soccer player and football  
38 kicker; he had planned to play both sports at Clemson  
39 University but instead signed a contract with FC Dallas; his  
40 soccer path then took him to the Italian club Venezia for  
41 three years before his current role with Olympique Lyonnais  
42 in France; and

43 WHEREAS, now Tanner Tessmann has played for two of  
44 Europe's top five leagues, Italy's Serie A in 2021-22 before  
45 relegation and France's Ligue 1 the past two seasons, while  
46 simultaneously climbing the U.S. ladder; since playing every  
47 minute of four Olympic matches in France, he has integrated  
48 into the senior squad of the United States Men's National  
49 Soccer Team; last fall, he started twice and came off the  
50 bench twice, scoring in the 5-1 disastrous defeat of Uruguay  
51 in Tampa; with World Cup veteran Tyler Adams recovering from  
52 a knee injury, Tanner Tessmann's role could expand this  
53 spring; and

54 WHEREAS, Alabama can be proud of its native sons,  
55 Chris Richards and Tanner Tessmann; they are tenacious  
56 players who will help advance Team USA further in the



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57 knockout round than any American team has ever advanced; now  
58 therefore,

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
60 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we wish to commemorate this  
61 historic event and heartily commend Chris Richards and  
62 Tanner Tessmann for their significance as role models with  
63 the talent and ability to represent Alabama on an  
64 international level.