



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA  
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

---

To: Media  
From: Little People of America (LPA)  
Re: Washington Senate Bill 5486

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **January 25, 2019**

### **LPA Supports Proposed Ban on Dwarf Tossing**

Due to its significant implications to the dwarfism community and to the individual, Little People of America, a national support and advocacy organization for people with dwarfism, strongly supports Washington Senate Bill 5486, which proposes a statewide ban on dwarf tossing. The bill was introduced on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 in the state legislature.

Dwarf tossing, also banned in Florida in 1989 and New York in 1990, is undoubtedly unsafe and subjects the individual being tossed to serious medical harms. Even with padded gear on, dwarf tossing exposes the individual to permanent injuries to the spinal column or even death.

While dwarf tossing poses an extreme risk to the individual, it also objectifies the entire dwarf community. Any person who is tossed is equal to a shot put or a javelin thrown in a track and field event. Dwarf tossing treats people of short stature as pieces of equipment, and encourages the general attitude that people with dwarfism are objects.

Members of the dwarf community, who are not involved in dwarf tossing, are put at risk because of the message of objectification sent by dwarf tossing. Members of the dwarfism community report being fearful while alone in public due to the risk of being picked up or threatened to be used as a piece of equipment.

We aren't preventing people of short stature from partaking in an activity that the rest of society partakes in, because there is no comparable sport involving other groups. We don't have "toss-the-six-footer" events, or "toss-the-Irishman" contests. We are, in fact, prohibiting the targeted exploitation of a genetic condition.

We affirm that a ban on dwarf tossing is not meant to be a limit on the liberties of any citizen, but as protection for the health and welfare of the community.