



United States
Olympic & Paralympic
Committee

1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

July 17, 2025

Hon. Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on
Energy & Commerce
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on
Energy & Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education & Workforce
2266 Rayburn House Office Building

Hon. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education & Workforce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), I write to commend Congress for its ongoing efforts to establish national standards for student-athlete compensation in intercollegiate sports.

Expanding and protecting athletes' earning opportunities has long been a USOPC priority, and we view it as essential to the long-term health of the Olympic and Paralympic sport ecosystem. For many current and future Team USA athletes, college sports are both a high-performance pipeline and an aspirational opportunity to represent their school—and, ultimately, their country. These academic and athletic systems are deeply intertwined, and Congress has a unique opportunity to strengthen them by encouraging policies that support robust, broad-based sport offerings.

The power of the collegiate system was on full display at the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, where 75% of U.S. Olympians and 85% of U.S. Paralympians had collegiate affiliations. These athletes' success stories—and the infrastructure behind them—are only possible with sustained investment across a wide range of sports.

As Congress continues to consider policy proposals related to college sports, we urge a thoughtful, forward-looking approach that avoids unintended consequences for non-revenue sports. Many Olympic and Paralympic programs exist at the collegiate level not because they generate profit, but because they serve broader missions—equity, access, excellence, and national pride.

Without careful calibration, proposed legislative reforms could result in potential for widespread program cuts, or material reductions in the investment level, that could dismantle decades of progress in sport diversity and opportunity. We've seen data indicating that implementing restrictive sport sponsorship minimums could result in the loss of 2,000–3,000 Olympic sport opportunities across the collegiate system over the next five years alone, with an estimated \$20.5 million in lost annual support for Olympic-sport athletes—a loss that would have deep and lasting consequences for the pipeline of American athletes.

We encourage Congress to consider a model that ensures proportionate investment in operating costs and scholarships across sport programs. This would:

- Maintain the broad-based sport offerings that exist today, which vary greatly from institution to institution. To mandate 16 sports does not maintain today's opportunities for our country's best athletes – rather it provides a vehicle to significantly reduce them (*According to USOPC modeling, 64 out of 67 Power Four schools sponsor more than 16 sports and the average Power Four school sponsors more than 21 sports*).
- Allow for the proportionate growth and expansion of ALL sports on campus, opening the door for new revenue-generating opportunities around women's sports, as well as Olympic and Paralympic sports. While we all expect football and basketball to continue to see growth, this would ensure that growth occurs across all sports – at an appropriate and proportionate level.
- Sustain the consistent contributions of the collegiate system to the success of Team USA, and the pride and enthusiasm that comes with cheering for athletes who represent both school and country.

The USOPC is committed to being a partner in this process and would welcome the opportunity to share further insights, data, and recommendations. Thank you for your leadership in shaping a collegiate sports model that protects student-athletes and preserves opportunity across all levels of competition.



Sarah Hirshland
Chief Executive Officer



Gene Sykes
President

cc:

Speaker Mike Johnson
Majority Leader Steve Scalise
Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
Chairman Gus Bilirakis
Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky
Members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee
Members of the House Education & Workforce Committee