

United States
Olympic & Paralympic
Committee

1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

June 16, 2026

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), the National Governing Body Council (NGBC) and the Team USA Athletes' Commission (AC), we write today in strong support of the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and its provisions that preserve opportunities for collegiate Olympic and Paralympic sports.

We look forward to Thursday's markup and encourage the Committee to advance the Protect College Sports Act without delay.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to you and your teams for the dedication to supporting collegiate Olympic sports and the student-athletes who benefit from these opportunities.

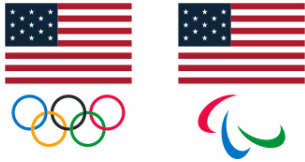
Collegiate athletic departments are facing increasing pressure to prioritize revenue-generating sports at the expense of Olympic sports programs and opportunities. This trend is deeply concerning for athletes in these programs and the USOPC, NGBC and AC, and is likely to accelerate absent congressional action.

Collegiate Olympic sports programs are critical to Team USA and translate directly to our competitive success. At the Paris 2024 Games, 75 percent of U.S. Olympians and 53 percent of Paralympians had collegiate affiliations, representing 231 collegiate institutions and 71 conferences. 20 collegiate institutions celebrated Olympic and Paralympic medal winners at the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Milan-Cortina.

The revised version of the Protect College Sports Act ensures that higher-resourced NCAA Division I athletic departments — those with annual revenues exceeding \$80 million — will maintain at least the same number of roster spots and scholarship opportunities for women's and men's Olympic sports as in the 2024–2025 academic year. We welcome that the agreement provides reasonable flexibility, including transitional protections for mid-sized institutions, while preserving overall participation opportunities,

We also appreciate that the legislation prevents reducing minimum requirements for varsity sports sponsorship, participation, and athletic competitions across Division I sports.

A stable collegiate sports system moving forward will strengthen and expand broad-based sport offerings through new revenue opportunities and sustained institutional support for women's and men's collegiate Olympic sports. We share your commitment to ensuring the long-term vitality of the collegiate pipeline that underpins our Olympic and Paralympic success.



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Additionally, we applaud your recognition that athlete representation is fundamental to effective governance and decision-making, ensuring that the voices of college athletes will help shape the policies and opportunities that define their futures.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues and your efforts to support current Team USA athletes as well as the future generations of athletes aspiring to represent Team USA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hirshland".

Sarah Hirshland
Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan Quirk".

Brendan Quirk
Chair, National Governing Bodies Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Rosinbum".

Joel Rosinbum
Chair, Team USA Athletes' Commission