

The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act

Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.)

THE PROBLEM

Boxing is a cherished American tradition. For generations, champions like Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, and “The Greatest” Muhammad Ali have excited fans across the world. However, modern boxing is held back by a fragmented structure that too often prevents the sport from delivering the fights fans want and the protections fighters need.

- **Modern boxing is difficult to follow.** Fans face competing rankings, multiple belts in the same division, excessive interim titles, and no clear path to championships.
- **The best matchups are too difficult to make.** Bureaucratic battles between promoters and sanctioning bodies leave major bouts either delayed or derailed and deprive fighters and fans of the sport’s best matchups.
- **Fighters lack consistency and stable opportunities.** Many boxers compete infrequently, face long exclusive agreements, receive no guaranteed schedule, and bear substantial medical and training costs.
- **Safety standards vary.** Basic requirements for medical examinations, ringside care, drug testing, and insurance differ from state to state, creating uncertainty for fighters and promoters while risking boxers’ health and safety.

THE SOLUTION

The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act would remove legal barriers in current federal law that prevent new boxing organizations from offering more competition and stronger protections for boxers. This bipartisan bill preserves the traditional boxing model while creating voluntary, league-style alternatives for fighters who choose to join.

1. **A better product for fans.** The bill enables unified boxing organizations (UBOs) to offer league-style systems with unified rules and integrated rankings and titles, allowing for high-quality matchups and clear champions. UBOs may recognize outside rankings and titles, preserving opportunities for crossover fights and undisputed champions.
2. **Gives fighters more control and more reliable opportunities.** A boxer’s first professional promotional agreement is limited to three years. Fighters are guaranteed minimum compensation and a 90-day period to negotiate their next contract. The bill also prohibits UBOs from charging ranking and title-challenge fees, creates a firewall between UBOs and boxer managers to prevent conflicts of interest, and requires UBOs to schedule fights every six months for boxers under contract.
3. **Protects boxers in and out of the ring.** UBOs must provide enhanced medical examinations, additional brain imaging before a fighter may return following a knockout, qualified ringside physicians, ambulance coverage, and independent drug testing. Fighters will also receive insurance for training injuries, and access to training and rehabilitation facilities.
4. **Preserves state oversight and competitive integrity.** State boxing commissions retain authority over contests, judges, referees, and drug testing penalties. The bill requires certified officials, public disclosures and enforceable conflict-of-interest rules without creating a new federal boxing regulator.