United States
Olympic & Paralympic
Committee
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Passage of the Protect College Sports Act

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, and Members of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of the United States Olympic and Paralympic community, we write to urge the House of Representatives to pass the **Protect College Sports Act**, which passed the United States Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 77–22. This legislation represents an important step toward bringing stability to college athletics while protecting the opportunities that have long made America's collegiate sports system a cornerstone of Olympic and Paralympic excellence.

For generations, colleges and universities across the country have played an indispensable role in developing Team USA athletes. Seventy-five percent of the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team and 53% of the 2024 Paralympic Team competed collegiately. Collegiate athletics provide critical opportunities for young athletes to pursue their education while training and competing at the highest levels. This uniquely American model has helped fuel our nation's success on the world stage and has opened doors for countless athletes across a wide range of Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Today, that pathway faces unprecedented challenges. As the college athletics landscape continues to evolve, mounting financial pressures and structural changes threaten the future of Olympic and Paralympic sports programs. Without meaningful changes, we are extremely concerned that institutions may soon eliminate teams or reduce resource opportunities in sports that are essential to developing future generations of Team USA athletes.

The Protect College Sports Act takes meaningful steps to address these challenges. In particular, we strongly support provisions that:

- **Protect Olympic and Paralympic sports opportunities** by establishing safeguards for existing roster positions and athletic scholarship support at qualifying colleges and universities.
- **Preserve a broad range of collegiate sports** by preventing reductions in the NCAA's minimum varsity sports sponsorship requirements.
- **Provide important protections for Para student-athletes**, ensuring that walk-on athletes with disabilities can continue to train and compete alongside NCAA teams and access essential athletic resources without counting against applicable roster limits.
- **Encourage investment in non-revenue sports** by allowing institutions to increase athlete retention spending when matched by compensation for athletes participating in Olympic, women's, and other non-revenue sports.
- **Strengthen student-athlete representation** by ensuring that current and former student-athletes have a meaningful voice in the governance and future of college athletics.

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This legislation represents meaningful progress toward protecting student-athlete opportunities, preserving Olympic and Paralympic sports programs, and providing greater certainty for colleges and universities navigating a rapidly changing environment.

The United States Olympic and Paralympic community stands ready to work with Congress to strengthen and sustain the collegiate pathway that is so vital to American sport.

We respectfully urge the House of Representatives to pass the Protect College Sports Act. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hirshland
Chief Executive Officer

Brendan Quirk
Chair, National Governing Bodies Council

Joel Rosinbum
Chair, Team USA Athletes' Commission