

June 17, 2026

Chairman Ted Cruz
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
428 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via email

Re: The Protect College Sports Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

The following outlines concerns and comments from the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) which we ask you to consider during markup of the "Protect College Sports Act of 2026" (PCSA). WSF has been a fierce protector of Title IX for more than 50 years because we know that participation in sports leads to better health, stronger leadership, and broader social and economic benefits for all. As a national non-profit organization founded by Billie Jean King, we empower women and girls in sports through research-informed advocacy, data-driven grantmaking, and community programming.

We are encouraged by the bipartisan effort behind the introduction of the PCSA, and as you approach markup, we want to share feedback to ensure that its mission to stabilize the college sports ecosystem does not inadvertently stunt or harm the potential of women's and broad-based sports. While we appreciate the effort to stabilize the current ecosystem, the PCSA requires additional clarity and improvement to safeguard opportunities for women's and Olympic sports.

We encourage you to prioritize changes to the PCSA that would ensure:

- Participation opportunities in women's and men's Olympic sports are protected,
- Public, transparent data on name, image, and likeness (NIL) deals and revenue share payments, disaggregated by sex, and
- The promotion of and investment in women's sports.

The PCSA must address these priorities for women athletes and broad-based sports, and any federal legislation must keep gender equity and existing federal law top of mind.

Protecting Women's and Broad-Based Opportunities

It is critical that the PCSA protect participation opportunities for men and women in Olympic sports because, as noted above, we know sports provide lifelong benefits to those who participate which ultimately makes our country stronger.

Additionally, given the structure of sports in the United States, collegiate sports are the training ground for Team USA: 75% of Team USA at the 2024 Paris Games¹ and 40% at the 2026 Milano Cortina Games² competed in collegiate sports. A successful, robust collegiate sports system means stronger rosters for Team USA, and with the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games being held in Los Angeles, it is **imperative that we expand sports participation opportunities rather than shrink.**

The PCSA's provision requiring schools to maintain, at minimum, the number of sports teams, roster spots and grant-in aid opportunities provided in 2024-25 is a worthy attempt to protect opportunities, but we want to call your attention to some shortcomings in this section's language.

The bill currently ties protection of women's and men's Olympic sports to schools with revenues above \$50,000,000. We are concerned that these protections sunset after four years for institutions with revenues between \$50,000,000 and \$80,000,000, and after nine years for institutions above \$80,000,000. We are further concerned that schools below the \$50,000,000 threshold face no requirement at all to protect broad-based sports opportunities.

We urge you to add provisions addressing sport sponsorship, participation opportunities, and scholarships that reach all schools. One option would be to mirror language in the SCORE Act, which proposed codifying existing NCAA sport sponsorship levels – though that would only establish a floor. For all the reasons above, provisions that encourage or incentivize schools to sponsor teams well above any stated minimum would also be worthwhile.

Transparency of NIL Deals and Revenue Share

While WSF appreciates the PCSA's inclusion of transparency requirements around NIL deals, we are concerned by the exclusion of revenue-sharing data from this database. The absence of consistent data collection and transparency requirements leaves athletes, families, advocates, and policymakers unable to determine whether equitable opportunities exist. Since approval of the House v. NCAA settlement, institutions and states have moved to shield revenue-share payments and NIL deal data from public records laws, forcing athletes and other stakeholders to turn to the legal system to pursue transparency.³

Individual privacy need not be sacrificed for transparency. The PCSA must require publicly available, transparent reporting of any payments by schools to student athletes, disaggregated by sex, sport, and race.

¹ United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. "Highlighting the Collegiate Connections to Team USA." Retrieved from: <https://www.usopc.org/collegiate-impact>

² United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. "Milano Cortina 2026 Collegiate Resources." Retrieved from: <https://www.usopc.org/2026college>

³ NYTimes.com (March 26, 2026). How Much Do College Players Really Get Paid? Schools Don't Want You to Know – But You Should. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7144472/2026/03/26/college-players-athletes-salaries-payments/>

Promotion of Women's Sports

WSF encourages you to add provisions to the PCSA that incentivize increased investment in women's and men's Olympic sports within the bill's primary text, rather than leaving the matter to the Commission on the Future of College Athletics. Though we appreciate the Commission's role, there is no guarantee its recommendations will translate into real improvements in the promotion of and investment in women's sports. Many sports are capable of generating revenue, but only with proper investment.

The growth of women's sports in this country owes much to Congressional action more than 50 years ago with the passage of Title IX. These participation opportunities continue to benefit the country as a whole, and it is critical that we protect and build on this progress.

We ask that the Senate Commerce Committee weigh all potential implications for gender equity and broad-based sports opportunities in legislation affecting college sports. We thank you for your willingness to engage on this matter and urge that any federal legislation keep gender equity and existing federal law and protections at the forefront.

We are available as a resource and welcome the opportunity to discuss this letter further.