

September 15, 2026

Sent via email

Re: The Protect College Sports Act of 2026

Dear Senator,

I write to you today from the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) with concerns and comments for you to consider during your floor vote on S. 4668, 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 collaboration involved in the conception and introduction of the PCSA, and welcome some of the provisions outlined in the bill, such as the inclusion of transparency requirements around all compensation paid by institutions to student athletes, including revenue-sharing and NIL payments. However, as you approach a possible floor vote, we want to share feedback to ensure that the bill's intended mission to stabilize the college sports ecosystem does not inadvertently stunt or harm the potential of women's and men's broad-based sports. **In its current form, the PCSA requires additional clarity and improvement to safeguard gender equity and opportunities for women's and Olympic sports and the lifelong benefits that athletes receive through sports participation.**

WSF is particularly concerned about the PCSA's failure to ensure:

- Participation opportunities in women's and men's Olympic sports are protected,
- Clear guidance on application of Title IX to name, image and likeness (NIL) and revenue share payments made by schools, 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 designed to stabilize the current ecosystem 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 broad-based 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

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

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.**

We appreciate PCSA establishing minimum requirements for sport sponsorship across all institutions and the PCSA's provisions requiring schools to maintain, at minimum, the number of roster spots and grant-in aid opportunities provided in 2024-25 is a worthy attempt to protect opportunities, but the latter is tied to schools with revenues above \$50,000,000. Furthermore, 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.

To impact and stabilize college sports, the PCSA or any federal legislation must address sport sponsorship, participation opportunities, and scholarships that reach all schools.

Clear Applicability of Title IX to Funds Paid by Schools

Currently, PCSA provides no direction or clarity around the interpretation of Title IX as it relates to payments made by schools to student athletes (i.e., NIL and revenue share). As we have already seen, many schools have announced plans to distribute the Benefits Pool established through *House v. NCAA* (now proposed to be codified through PCSA) in a manner that would primarily benefit men in football and basketball. **WSF sees this skewed distribution as a clear violation of Title IX.**

Additionally, PCSA would grant schools the ability to exceed the revenue share cap by up to \$22,500,000 for purposes of retaining student-athletes who have spent at least one competitive season at the school. This limit can then be *further* exceeded by up to \$5,000,000 for the purpose of retaining athletes in non-revenue sports. While the bill does explain the establishment of this additional non-revenue retention fund does not *preclude* a school from providing athletes in non-revenue sports with more than \$5,000,000 in retention funds, it also does not go so far to say schools *must* provide this benefit equitably. Unfortunately, this will likely mean schools will interpret the \$22,500,000 in retention funds as implied for revenue sports and that schools are not required to distribute this larger pool of retention funds equitably.

Without clear guidance now, women athletes will face loss of payments and decades long legal battles to gain equitable funding, benefits and treatment as it relates to payments from the revenue share cap and retention funds created through the PCSA.

Promotion of Women's Sports

WSF is concerned about the PCSA's lack of provisions to incentivize increased investment in women's and men's Olympic sports, which would instead be left 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.

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



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 sports development pipeline and the country as a whole, and it is critical that we protect and build on this progress.

We ask that you weigh all potential implications for gender equity and broad-based sports participation in legislation affecting college sports, including the Protect College Sports Act. 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.