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*The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_*  
*United States House of Representatives/United States Senate*  
*Washington, D.C. 20515*

RE: Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics

*Dear Senator/Representative,*

As a unified collective of Team USA Athletes, we are reaching out for your support to strengthen athletes' representation, safety, and well-being by making the Team USA Athletes' Commission (Team USA AC) fully independent from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC). Team USA AC is the representative group and voice of approximately 5,000 athletes, and its operations are controlled by a Memorandum of Understanding with the USOPC that is in effect until the end of 2024. Our 2024 budget is \$800,104 (MOU: [Click Here](#)). Team USA AC's membership consists of at least one athlete from each National Governing Body (NGBs) in which the United States is represented at the Olympic and Pan American Games, six athletes representing the Paralympic Sport Organizations or NGBs designated to govern a Paralympic sport, and six athletes elected by the Team USA AC to serve as leadership.

On March 1, 2024, the Commission on the State of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (the "Commission") published its Final Report. The Commission was directed by Congress to conduct a study on the recent reforms undertaken by the USOPC to, among other things, improve the organization's ability to fulfill its mission. The Commission conducted the most comprehensive study of the Movement and its governance ever undertaken. Hundreds of athletes and other participants were interviewed, and issues concerning athlete support, representation, safety, and well-being were at its center. The twelve recommendations included in its final report represent a consensus view on how best to address structural challenges within the movement and make it truly "athlete-centered."

One recommendation is to make Team USA AC completely independent of the USOPC. This is a monumental step for all Team USA athletes, and a long-awaited change in the right direction to ensure a truly empowered athletes' voice within the Movement. Independence for the Team USA AC is in the best interest of athletes and the U.S. sports movement as a whole because it will allow the Team USA AC to fulfill its duty as outlined by the Commission to protect and empower athletes.

To accomplish this duty the Commission recommends Congress make fairly easy amendments to the Ted Stevens Act to: (1) ensure a steady revenue stream for Team USA AC and any method of securing independent funding must guarantee a revenue



stream with which an empowered Team USA AC can hire professional staff with a legal duty to act in athletes' best interests, including legal counsel who can represent athletes in a dispute; (2) empower the Team USA AC to raise and direct funds to support athletes' legal aid; (3) provide an explicit role in representing athletes' concerns to USOPC, NGBs, U.S. Center for SafeSport, and U.S. Anti-doping Agency on issues relating to arbitration processes, athlete-funding criteria, team-selection criteria, and national-team assignments; and (4) clarify and strengthen the authority of the Team USA AC to operate elections for the athlete-representative seats on USOPC's Board of Directors and on the boards of the NGBs. The Team USA AC supports the above recommendations and requests that Congress do what is in the best interest of Team USA athletes and take action to amend the Ted Stevens Act so that Team USA athletes, for the first time in history, finally have an organization that exists solely to serve and protect them. Below is some more detailed information on the Commission's work and its' recommendations:

- Summary of Recommendation #6 Independence Recommendation: [Click Here](#)
- Summary of Other Recommendations and Findings: [Click Here](#)
- Full Commission Report: [Click Here](#)

For further information or questions, please reach out to Elizabeth Ramsey, Team USA Executive Director, via email at [Elizabeth.ramsey@teamusa-ac.org](mailto:Elizabeth.ramsey@teamusa-ac.org) or by cell at 719-418-9822.

As signed by the following Team USA Athletes,