

Date: [Insert Date]

Re: A Call to Investigate the Inequitable Treatment of Women's College Athletics

Dear [Representative or Senator _____]

If you are among the many representatives and senators who have already called for a review of the NCAA's disparity in treatment between men's and women's athletics, thank you for your leadership. If you have not been briefed on this issue, I want to bring it to your attention and ask that you join your colleagues in demanding action on the inequities.

Significant disparities in the conditions and treatment of the female and male student athletes at the 2021 men's and women's basketball championships have been widely reported in the media. Regrettably, these realities are symptomatic of pervasive practices that exist within the NCAA and its governance board that subjugate women's sports to second-class status.

This is a longstanding, deeply ingrained systemic problem; it is not limited to Division I and it is not limited to basketball. It includes organizational, structural, financial, sales, marketing, and cultural inequities in the way the athletics program for female student athletes are managed, funded and promoted.

While the NCAA may not be directly subject to Title IX, it is a partner of and plays a pivotal role in the oversight of athletics programs at schools that are supported by federal financial assistance and therefore are subject to Title IX. And, the NCAA has committed to the gender equity principles enshrined in Title IX. The gross disparities that have persisted in intercollegiate athletics for decades clearly undermine gender equity principles meant to ensure that women athletes competing at the highest level of intercollegiate sports are not the subject of discrimination.

Accordingly, I join the loud chorus of equitably minded Americans and respectfully ask you to call upon the NCAA as well as the university leaders who comprise the membership and board of the NCAA to account for their disparate treatment of men's and women's athletics. Without your leadership and oversight, the many explicit and insidious practices that are robbing female student athletes of a fair shot at success will continue.

Thank you for your service to our nation and your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name and address]