

Date: [Insert Date]

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

Dear [Insert Name of University Leader]

I am writing to implore you, in your role as [insert either: a member university or one of the 25-member Board of Governors] of the NCAA, to rigorously examine the disparate treatment of women's and men's college athletics.

As you are most certainly aware, 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 in the NCAA 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.

The NCAA may not be directly subject to Title IX, but your university and the other universities that comprise the membership of the NCAA are, meaning you have a responsibility as a matter of law to uphold the principles of gender equity. The gross disparities that occurred at the NCAA basketball championships clearly violate these principles. More importantly, the organizational, structural, financial, sales, marketing, and cultural inequities resulting from the lack of clear accountability for upholding principles of gender equity by the NCAA and its university members are unacceptable and long overdue for reform.

It should be recognized that NCAA Division I basketball is growing in competitiveness, viewership, and attendance. An opportunity to grow the brand needs only for the Association to embrace the game with more than platitudes and lip service. An acceptance of this opportunity will help lift all women's sports to a new level of growth, provide needed resources to your institutional programs and provide the student-athletes with overdue recognition of their equal worth to the enterprise.

Accordingly, I join the loud chorus of equitably minded Americans who are calling for change and respectfully ask you to account for the disparate treatment of men's and women's collegiate athletics. Without your leadership, oversight and reform, the many explicit and insidious practices occurring at the collegiate level that are robbing female student athletes of a fair shot at success will continue.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name, address and capacity (coach, student athlete, student or alumni)]