

Olympians and officials support Rep. Diana DeGette's legislation aimed at reforming the U.S. Olympic Committee



- Three-time Olympic gold medalist **Nancy Hogshead-Makar**
- Two-time Olympic gold medalist **Caroline Lind**: “As a 2x Olympic Gold Medalist, I am fully supportive of the proposed legislation to review the governance and structure of the Olympics in the United States. The Olympics bring Americans together as one team, and so it is important to note that in the same way Republicans and Democrats have joined together to propose this common-sense legislation. I applaud the sponsors of this bill for their thoughtful approach to address the governance of the US Olympic Movement and make improvements of this national treasure.”
- Olympic gold medalist **BJ Bedford**
- Olympic gold medalist, and former Chief Operating Officer of the USOC, **Norm Bellingham**
- Olympic bronze medalist **Troy Dumais**: “I’m thrilled that there is now broad bipartisan support for a thorough review of the United States Olympic system with the objective of creating a system that will promote the Olympics in the United States for years to come.”

As a 4 time Olympian and Olympic Medalist, I truly believe that the best days of the US Olympic Movement are ahead of us. This legislation will help ensure that generations of young people have the same opportunity to grow up and represent the United States in the Olympics that I and my family have had.”

- Six-time Paralympian medalist **Bob Balk**: “I am very pleased that Congress is forming a committee to evaluate the governance and oversight of Olympics and Paralympics in the United States. I was very active as an athlete competing in 6 Paralympic Games and earned 6 Paralympic medals. Toward the latter part of my athletic career I became involved in various volunteer leadership roles supporting Olympians and Paralympians. I started with our US Olympic Committee’s (USOC) Athlete Advisory Council, where I helped reshape the USOC bylaws during difficult times in 2003/4. Subsequently I moved on to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletes Council, led that group as Chairperson and became an ex officio member of the IPC Governing Board and the International Olympic Committee’s Athletes Commission. Along the way I have been asked to participate on US Olympic Bids, served the board of a US National Governing Body of sport, and advised several International Federations on their Paralympic programs. From my experience we are at a good point to look closely at the legislation that protects our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and hopefuls. The USOC was originally created over 40 years ago with the Amateur Sports Act. It was revised 20 years later in 1998 to include representation of our Paralympians. Today, another 20 years later, we need to have another deep look into how our athletes, both Olympic and Paralympic, are represented and served in the United States. There has been tremendous growth and changes in the past two decades, perhaps even more so in Paralympics than Olympics. I applaud Congress for recognizing these changes and creating a committee of experts to study policies and craft new legislation that will serve our athletes whereby they can continue to inspire all Americans in their amazing acts of athleticism, courage, determination, equality, and fair play.”
- Three-time Olympian **Keith Sanderson**
- Paralympian **Sarah Will**
- Olympian **Katie Uhlaender**: “I want to thank and applaud the members of Congress for coming together in a bipartisan manner to support this legislation. The US Olympic Movement has seen acclaimed glory and many struggles in regard to athlete rights and protection. Our challenge now, is to find a way forward together. A path that enables athletes to represent the United States of America on the greatest world stage prepared, and simultaneously being developed to return to society without losing a step from their dedication in representing our great nation. This commission will enable a

thoughtful review of the Olympic governance system and help determining the path ahead for our precious US Olympic Movement. This is an opportunity for the United States of America to set the standard within the Olympic Movement, especially as the world's eyes will turn to us in 2028. Thank you for bringing this commission together and providing us and the future athletes with what they need.”

- Paralympian **Greta Neimanas**: “As a two-time Paralympian, I am fully supportive of this effort to form a committee to study and review the governance and operations of our Olympic Movement. As Paralympics was not really an integral part in the previous version of the law, I think it is important that we now have a thorough review of the growth potential of US Paralympics and determine how we can support our athletes moving forward. I applaud the bipartisan support for this legislation as a thoughtful solution for how to grow our Olympic Movement into the future.”
- Olympian **Sarah Elijah Scherer**: “I’m excited that Congress is working together in a bipartisan manner to study the state of the Olympics and Paralympics to develop a plan for success moving forward. We have a tremendous opportunity to institute common sense reforms that will enable our Olympic and Paralympic teams to prepare for the LA 2028 Olympics and beyond. A healthy and stable Olympic and Paralympic system is key to keep young kids dreaming of representing the United States in the Olympics for years to come.”
- Olympian, and former Chief Operating Officer of USA Shooting, **Bill Roy**: “I have been involved with the Olympics for almost 30 years as an Olympian and then a sports administrator. I now help run one of the largest Olympic sponsorship programs in history. I’ve seen the Olympics grow and stretch over time. Because of this I’m glad that a bipartisan group of Congressmen have come together to study the Olympics and help determine how to build the US Olympic Movement going forward. I applaud the sponsors of this bill for working across the aisle to produce common-sense legislation that will ensure the next generation of US Olympians has the opportunity to represent the United States with dignity, pride, and outstanding athletic results.”
- Paralympian **Sam Kavanagh**: “As a proud US Paralympian and an elected member of the US Olympic Committee Athlete Advisory Council Leadership team, I am thrilled to personally support the proposed legislation. Paralympics is the most rapidly growing part of the Olympic family. It is time for the United States to engage in a thoughtful external review of Paralympic governance, policy, and funding. As the United States heads toward hosting the Paralympics/ Olympics in 2028, I believe the work of the commission that this legislation creates will help enable the US Paralympic and Olympic Programs to be world leaders for decades to come.”

- Olympian **Eli Bremer**
- Olympian **Jeff Olson**
- Olympian **Cale Simmons**
- Olympian **Nathan Schrimsher**
- **Travis Tygart**, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency
- **Rob Koehler**, former World Anti-Doping Agency Director of Education, current Director General of Global Athlete