

October 29, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee of Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee of Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott:

As Chairman of the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, I write to express support for H.R. 4624 – The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act, a landmark piece of legislation that will significantly strengthen the safety, integrity, and future of professional boxing in the United States.

This measure reflects a deep understanding of the urgent need to modernize the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to meet the realities of today’s sport. This bill provides a balanced, forward-thinking framework that both enhances athlete welfare and promotes the responsible growth of professional boxing nationwide.

H.R. 4624 introduces essential medical safeguards—annual physicals, mandatory MRI and angiography testing, hepatitis and HIV screening, pregnancy testing, and supplemental exams for athletes over 40 years of age. These provisions address long-standing health vulnerabilities within the sport and ensure that boxers compete only when medically fit to do so.

Equally significant, the bill mandates multiple ambulances and ringside physicians at every event, guaranteeing immediate emergency care. These requirements will save lives and set a new national benchmark for event safety that every state athletic commission can support.

The Act’s establishment of Unified Boxing Organizations (UBOs) under federal standards represents an important modernization of boxing governance. Requiring UBOs to operate with independent anti-doping programs and conflict-of-interest rules ensures transparency and prevents the abuses that have too often plagued the sport.

Additionally, the prohibition on insider wagering and the enforcement of clean sport protocols will restore public confidence and promote fair play for all competitors. These provisions align closely with Georgia’s own regulatory priorities—protecting fighters, promoting fairness, and maintaining public trust.

The minimum per-round pay requirement and the mandate that insurance premiums not fall on the boxer are practical, humane reforms that recognize the economic realities of athletes who dedicate their lives to the sport. By allowing boxers to contract with unified organizations that provide standardized medical, training, and insurance support, H.R. 4624 gives fighters greater stability, choice, and professional dignity.

This Act fittingly bears the name of Muhammad Ali—an athlete who stood not only for excellence in the ring but also for justice, integrity, and self-determination. The bill embodies those same principles, creating a modern, ethical, and transparent framework that honors both Ali’s legacy and America’s leadership in global sportsmanship.

Congressman Jack and Davids’ leadership on this bill demonstrates a sincere commitment to the safety of athletes, the integrity of competition, and the revival of an American sporting tradition that has inspired generations. On behalf of the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, I express my strong endorsement of H.R. 4624 and urge its swift passage through Congress.

Please accept my gratitude for your dedication to this cause and for your continued leadership in safeguarding the well-being of professional athletes across our nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Thompson". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "R" and "T".

Rick Thompson  
Chairman  
Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission