

September 3, 2025

Dear Congressman Brian Jack,

We are writing in support of the new subsection (b) *Minimum Payment to Boxers* added to Section 5 of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, as well as the \$25,000 minimum requirement in medical coverage amending paragraph (4) of subsection (a).

We are three researchers/academics who draw on empirical, data driven evidence to support our work, including our published [policy brief](#) through the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute. This piece, published last May (2024), is grounded in the rigorous and thorough study of boxing regulations in California. Our report found that promoters can compensate boxers \$375 per round – equivalent to the median compensation received by four-round fighters in 2021.

Based on these findings, we strongly believe that establishing a federal minimum payment for professional boxers is long overdue and will go a long way in making this sport pay better for the vast majority of boxers. While the proposed federal minimum of \$150 per round is a step toward standardization, it risks being quickly outdated without a mechanism to account for inflation. We therefore recommend indexing the federal minimum to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring that compensation remains fair in real economic terms. States should also retain the ability to raise minimums further to reflect local conditions such as cost of living or state-level CPI. This approach would set a strong federal floor while respecting economic differences across states and aligning boxing with labor standards in other sectors.

In addition, we support the proposed \$25,000 minimum requirement in medical coverage as an important federal baseline. This figure ensures that no state falls below a standard of basic protection. States that currently require less should be brought up to this level, while those with higher requirements should continue to exceed it. To ensure adequacy over time, these minimums should also be reviewed regularly and adjusted for inflation. Further research will be critical to evaluating the impact of these standards on fighter health, safety, and well-being.

Taken together, these measures update the Professional Boxing Safety Act by creating federal baselines. We commend the intent of the *Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act* in establishing, for the first time, a national minimum for per-round payment and medical coverage – an important step toward providing baseline protections for boxers. To strength boxer protections, we recommend indexing federal baselines to CPI and allowing for state-level cost-of-living adjustments. This approach would ensure both boxer safety and economic fairness, while safeguarding the independence and rights that the Muhammad Ali Reform Act of 2000 secured.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Abel Valenzuela Jr., Dean of Social Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Jose M. Hernández, Independent Researcher