

## Howard Handler President

November 18, 2025

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

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

Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott:

I am writing on behalf of 313 Presents, Detroit's premier live entertainment company, which promotes and produces concerts, theatrical productions, sporting events and family shows at six world-class venues across southeast Michigan including Little Caesars Arena, home to the NHL's Detroit Red Wings and NBA's Detroit Pistons, and the Fox Theatre. As the steward of venues rooted in one of America's most iconic boxing cities, we write to express our strong support for H.R. 4624, the *Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act*.

Detroit's boxing legacy runs deep, reflecting iconic venues, generations of champions, including Thomas "Hitman" Hearns and Hilmer Kenty, and a community that has long embraced the sport. Detroit, the hometown of 'The Brown Bomber' Joe Louis, continues to be a proving ground for greatness – most recently demonstrated when Flint native and undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World, five-division world champion, and two-time Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields sold out Little Caesars Arena this past July.

For nearly 100 years, boxing was one of the most popular sports in America, consistently selling out arenas and stadiums around the country. For decades, millions of fans in cities like Las Vegas, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Detroit and New York would flock to local venues to see their boxing heroes-American legends of the sport like Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Jack Dempsy, Mike Tyson, Sugar Ray Leonard, and Floyd Mayweather, Jr. However, in the past twenty years, the number of marquee boxing events held at venues in the United States has slowly declined, with many of boxing's premier fights now taking place overseas.

As just one example, since 2015, the majority of the most notable heavyweight title matches have taken place outside of the U.S. As these boxing matches have migrated out of the U.S., they have taken with them the economic benefits that such popular, sold-out spectacles deliver to the host community.

Each moderate to large-scale boxing event represents a local economic engine for our venues. Local workers are employed in event operations, hospitality, security, and across many other functions. In addition, neighboring businesses to our buildings, such as restaurants, bars, and hotels, all see a concomitant spikes in revenue from such events.

To use the closest analogue to boxing in combat sports, major UFC events routinely generate tens of millions of dollars for the communities that host them. By bringing more boxing cards to venues nationwide, communities around the country can share in these economic benefits.

The *Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act* would add to the available inventory of professional boxing matches in the United States by encouraging and incentivizing new promotions to produce such events. As you know, this legislation will not replace the current professional boxing structure involving sanctioning organizations. Instead, this bill allows for the creation of a separate, parallel system that would produce more boxing events. These additional events would complement any boxing cards hosted in our venues that take place under the auspices of the sanctioning bodies system.

We're committed to reestablishing boxing's prominence in the city of Detroit. With its rich history of producing champions, the city has long been a cornerstone of the sport, and we're excited to continue building on the momentum to deliver world-class productions and unmatched fan experiences, while generating measurable positive economic impact in communities. As such, we support this effort to expand and enhance the professional boxing landscape through the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act.

We respectfully urge Congress to enact H.R. 4624, which would encourage, incentivize, and expand the scheduling of professional boxing events in the U.S. while also reviving American interest in this storied and celebrated sport.

Sincerely,



Howard Handler  
President  
313 Presents