



**Testimony to the  
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections  
DECEMBER 4, 2025**

Chairman Mackenzie, Ranking Member Omar, Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, Chairman Comer, and Representatives Messmer, Grothman, Miller, Fine, Stevens, Casar, and Takano, thank you for welcoming my testimony today.

I am honored to submit H.R.4624, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act, for your consideration.

I authored and introduced this bipartisan legislation with Representative Sharice Davids, a talented athlete and a chief deputy whip within the House Democratic Caucus.

Professional boxing in America has an incredibly rich and storied history. It's a sport that demands courage, perseverance and determination from its champions, and its heroes have inspired greatness, ignited dreams, and forged generations of memories and tradition.

39 years before Jackie Robinson bravely broke barriers in Major League Baseball, Jack Johnson — the “Galveston Giant” — reigned as the first black Heavyweight Champion of the World from 1908 to 1915.

Decades before the New York Knicks were formed, thousands of spectators crammed into Madison Square Garden to see Jack Dempsey fight.

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Many of you may recall storied bouts during boxing's golden era like Leon Spinks vs. Muhammad Ali in 1978, Marvin Hagler vs. Thomas Hearns in 1985, and Mike Tyson's championship fights in the 1990s.

Unfortunately, American boxing has since faced a steady decline.

37 years have passed since an American won a heavyweight Gold Medal at the Olympics, and the majority of boxing's premier fights are now overseas, many time zones away.

In recent years, HBO World Championship Boxing and Showtime Championship Boxing — long home to the greatest fights — ceased operations. Just a few months ago, ESPN's contract with a leading boxing promotion ended, without renewal.

Today, we submit legislation before you that will fix boxing's downturn, and revive this great American sport.

For over a century, individual states enacted legislation to regulate professional boxing, but the patchwork of regulations without uniform minimum standards led to widespread exploitation and rampant corruption.

Since the 1950s, Congress has considered legislation to address these problems, and after multiple attempts in the 1990s, Congress finally acted, unanimously passing the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act in 2000.

As a result, boxing is the only professional sport currently regulated by Congress.



The Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act amends the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and preserves and protects the original Ali Act in its entirety.

First, our legislation clarifies ambiguities in current law that have stifled innovation and investment into this sport.

The Act allows for the creation of alternative systems called Unified Boxing Organizations, otherwise known as UBOs, that will provide professional boxers with more opportunities, better pay, and greater protections.

The UBO system will not replace the current structure involving sanctioning organizations. Instead, UBOs will be a separate, parallel system to the sanctioning organizations that will provide boxers with the freedom to choose which of the two systems is best for them.

Additionally, this Act will return premier boxing events to our country, spurring economic growth and success across host communities.

For this reason, the operators of many of America's greatest venues endorse this bipartisan legislation, including:

- State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia
- Madison Square Garden in New York City, New York
- Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota

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- Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Michigan
- Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California
- And, Chartway Arena in Norfolk, Virginia.

And, just yesterday, this legislation received a letter of support from the 1.3 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, one of America's largest unions.

To improve the safety and well-being of boxers, this legislation establishes a minimum payment-per-round of \$150 for professional boxers, aligning a patchwork of existing state laws to a uniform standard that will protect boxers from exploitation, especially in the early stages of their career.

Additionally, this Act strengthens existing health and safety protections for boxers to extend their careers and earning potential.

Finally, to safeguard the integrity of the sport, this legislation implements strict anti-betting policies and restricts UBOs from charging boxers fees for placement in rankings or participation in championship matches.

Sadly, earlier this week, Super Middleweight Champion of the World Terence "Bud" Crawford was stripped of his championship belt for allegedly failing to pay fees to the sanctioning organization. Our legislation prohibits this practice, for boxers who elect to join a UBO.



In closing, the Muhammad Ali American Boxing Revival Act provides us with a chance to make history.

Once enacted, this legislation will be celebrated for decades to come, so let's join together in a spirit of bipartisanship and revive one of America's greatest sports in the name of one of America's greatest athletes.

I yield back.