



UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
1100 H St. NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

December 21, 2016

The Honorable Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff
Colorado State Representative
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue, Room 271
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representative Navarro-Ratzlaff:

On behalf of the United States Olympic Committee, I would like to thank you for your interest in authoring legislation to exempt U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes from taxes on the medals and bonuses won during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USOC strongly supports your initiative. It would be a very nice complement to the recently enacted federal law – the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act (USA Olympians and Paralympians Act). Your proposed state-based legislation would provide much needed and significant financial support to some of Colorado's most dedicated amateur athletes.

Olympic and Paralympic athletes play a unique role in representing our country at the Games. Unlike athletes in virtually all other countries, the USOC and our athletes receive no government funding, and instead rely on the generosity of the American public and private sponsors for support. These young men and women dedicate years of training to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games without government backing. While the USOC and its athletes are not asking for government funds to support their efforts, it seems only fair that our Olympians and Paralympians are not taxed when they successfully represent their country in these competitions.

While many of our athletes enjoy financial success as a result of their participation on the U.S. Olympic or Paralympic Teams, this is by no means universally true. Many of these athletes and their families make a considerable financial sacrifice to train for and participate in the Games. For these elite athletes, taxing any awards or medals is detrimental to their future success. Given our system of private support for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we should be vigilant to eliminate any disincentives – such as taxing success at the Games – and instead strengthen a system that has produced the world's most successful Olympic and Paralympic athletes without relying on taxpayer support.

Thank you again for your support of Team USA. I would be happy to discuss your legislation in more detail and the "Olympic Day at the Capitol" at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Desiree Filippone".

Desiree Filippone,
Managing Director, Government Relations

Cc: Scott Blackmun, Chief Executive Officer, US Olympic Committee