

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you consider further measures in conjunction with allies and partners around the world, we urge you to pursue actions to suspend Russia's participation in international sporting federations and events as well as other international contests.

The International Olympic Committee's "Principles of Olympism," a model for many similar principles of international sport, notes that one of the goals of Olympism is "promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity." These goals are also in the spirit of the U.N. Charter—which further states in Article Two that "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state[.]"

Russia's unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine is the culmination of a pattern of aggression against its neighbors, including the agitation of separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea in 2014, and a war against Georgia in 2008. To allow Russia to continue to compete and participate in international sporting and cultural events as if it was still a member in good standing of the international community would send a disturbing signal that its flagrant violation of international law is normal or acceptable. Moreover, the prestige and economic benefits that flow from these events would strengthen Putin's criminal regime at a time when we must use all available avenues to ensure it pays a severe price for the invasion of Ukraine.

We urge you to use all possible measures under U.S. law, as well as the voice and influence of U.S. diplomacy—both directly and working through partners—to bar Russia from directly or indirectly participating in international sports and cultural organizations and events for as long as Putin's aggression against Ukraine continues.

We should also pursue aggressive efforts to relocate any international sporting or cultural events scheduled to take place in Russia to another country. We commend the decisions by the International Olympic Committee and FIFA to bar athletes from Russia from participating in events and to relocate events out of Russia, which sets a strong precedent for similar actions. The United States and our allies should also investigate situations in which sports teams, cultural organizations, or related infrastructure are controlled by people or entities subject to U.S. sanctions.

We thank you for your consideration of this request. As Members of Congress, we stand ready to marshal the goodwill of allies around the world to make clear that such a disregard for sovereignty merits the strongest possible response from the international community.

Sincerely,



JOAQUIN CASTRO  
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER  
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress



SUSAN WILD  
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JIM COSTA  
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/s/

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