

My name is Brennen Werner and I am close friends with several of the University of Minnesota gymnasts. I am writing to support the public hearing your committee has scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 1 pm to hear testimony regarding the three dropped sports at the University of Minnesota. I have been outraged and incensed since the decision to drop these sports was first proposed by Athletic Director Mark Coyle at the 9/11/20 U of M Board of Regents meeting. This matter is dear to me because I feel these athletes have dedicated their lives to becoming division one athletes and decided to come to represent the University of Minnesota and for all that to be taken away from them seems unjust. Especially when other coaches and administrative roles have recently been getting significant raises.

The hearing on February 15 is extremely important to me, please do not cancel it as I have heard that some are trying to get the hearing canceled.

I plan to attend this hybrid hearing (in-person and/or zoom). I am following very closely what comes next, especially any positive movement toward transparency of the use of taxpayer money for higher education and benefits to student-athlete programs (specifically the reinstatement of Men's gymnastics, indoor track, and tennis).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Brennen Werner