

Dear Senator Rarick,

I am writing to request that you ENSURE that the Higher Education hearing on February 15th around the topic of the University of Minnesota Mens Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Program move forward as planned.

As an alumni of the University of Minnesota and of the Women's Track and Field program, I support the Men's Track and Field Program and wish for their team to continue to be supported at the University of Minnesota.

Sport, at its highest level is meant to elevate human kind, to encourage us to grow, learn and be our best. Sport at the NCAA level gives students a chance to practice their sport, possibly at the highest level they ever will, but most importantly it creates a path to a college education, a community to connect with around a similar shared interest, a place to learn about teamwork and about being there for others. **Sport elevates humankind and brings people together. FANCY FACILITIES AND BIG BUDGETS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR THIS. Mark Coyle being given millions of dollars in bonuses and salary increases at the EXPENSE of development and growth opportunities for Minnesota's YOUTH when he is already paid a massive salary in simply NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

The University of Minnesota Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Program represents all of these things about the best that sport has to offer for a diverse range of individuals that pursue a range of events within Track and Field. At this time, more than ever, we need sports that bring community together. The University of Minnesota Men's Track and Field program has helped support and grow athletes who have performed on the world stage, representing MN and the USA, most recently at the 2016 Olympics. Look up Hasaan Mead and Ben Blankenship (TEAM USA members at the 2016 Olympic Games).

The Higher Education hearing on Feb 15 is tentative and I want to make sure that it happens. Please know that I am carefully watching and want to see positive movement toward indoor track being reintroduced at the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Courtney Sanders