

Dear Senator Rarick,

I'm a friend of the University of Minnesota Men's Track and Field Team and I'm writing to remind you that it's important that all voices be heard on this matter of the reinstatement of the Men's Indoor Track and Field program during the Higher Ed Hearing on Feb 15. UMN AD Mark Coyle and his team are attempting to cancel this hearing and that is not right. Everyone should have the freedom to speak on this matter and to raise the many issues around canceling this Indoor Track program in the first place.

Track continues to have the most participation in the state of Minnesota at the high school level and we need more opportunities for our high school athletes to dream of pursuing the sport at the collegiate level. Your support will go a long way in helping thousands of Minnesota athletes fulfill their goals and become positive contributors to society as a whole for the next hundred years or more. If you look into the graduates of the UMN Track and Field program, I'm sure you will find men of the utmost character and contributions to Minnesota. The program has produced Olympians, most recently Hassan Mead and Ben Blakenship, both Minnesotans who ran in the 2016 Rio Games.

The 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 sports reintroduced.

Sincerely,

Daniel Docherty
Elite Athlete
Coach
Director of Operations