

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2308 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3212
(202) 225-7944

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
[SENIOR HOUSE DEMOCRAT]



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3212

July 11, 2019

- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 1651 THIRD AVENUE
SUITE 311
NEW YORK, NY 10128
(212) 860-0606
 - 31-19 NEWTOWN AVENUE
ASTORIA, NY 11102
(718) 932-1804
 - 619 LORIMER STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11211
(718) 349-5972

WEBSITE: www.house.gov/maloney

Carlos Cordeiro
President
U.S. Soccer Federation
1801 S. Prairie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616

Dear Mr. Cordeiro,

Congratulations on the extraordinary success of the U.S. Women's National Team at the World Cup this year! Their win has lifted the spirits of Americans, inspired young people across the country and solidified the reputation of the U.S. team as dominant in the sport. There is a huge amount of excitement in watching the women play. They have inspired us with their fearlessness, enthusiasm, determination and hugely entertaining style of play.

With all that good feeling, the one dark spot is the fact that the winning American women's team is paid less than the faltering American men's team. The U.S. Soccer Federation must immediately change this situation. Fairness and equal treatment demand it. As you know, since 2016, the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team has generated more revenue than the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team, particularly in the year following their 2015 World Cup win. For the most part, this has not been reflected in their pay scale. Moreover, in 2018, they also played nearly double the number of games and won significantly more often than the men's team.

According to the lawsuit the USWNT filed, if the men's and women's teams won each of the 20 non-tournament games they are contractually required to play, USWNT players would earn a maximum of \$99,000 (\$4,950 per game), while USMNT players would earn \$263,320 (\$13,166 per game). Furthermore, the \$15,000 the women were paid for making the national team pales in comparison to the \$55,000 the men received in 2014 for making the team and the \$68,750 they would have received had they qualified in 2018. The USWNT players deserve compensation for the pay gap they have endured, and future contract negotiations must yield equal pay for men's and women's players.

An added complication in the quest for equal pay is the huge disparity between the amount FIFA awards in prize money to the winning women's team, \$4 million to the U.S. women's team in the 2019 World Cup, and to the winning men's team, \$38 million in the 2018 World Cup. The U.S. Soccer Federation should be supporting its winningest team and taking steps to achieve parity for the women by adjusting the pay structure for women in non-tournament and World Cup play, retroactively reimbursing USWNT members for previous underpayment, as well as encouraging FIFA to increase the prize money available to women.

I urge you in the strongest possible words to do what is both right and necessary to give USWNT players the equal pay that they deserve.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Vice Chair, Joint Economic Committee