

Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese's impact drives million-dollar investment in the WNBA, taking a major step to ensure the safety and comfort of its players by investing \$50 million in full-time charter flight services over the next two years. This decision, amid a schedule featuring more back-to-back sets due to the extended break for the Olympics follows last year's \$4 million expenditure on charters. Cathy Engelbert, outlined the league's intention to launch the charter program "as soon as we can get planes in places." The projected cost of approximately \$25 million per year for the next two seasons is aimed at improving the travel experience for professional athletes, eliminating long security lines, cramped legroom, and layovers. This is the way the league is transforming and it's the best for it. As the Minnesota Lynx forward express "All these players and these faces are becoming so popular that it really is about that as much as it is about recovery" The league's popularity has surged in recent years, thanks in part to standout rookies like Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese, and Cameron Brink. Looking ahead, Engelbert aims to expand the league to 16 teams by 2028, with a new Golden State franchise in San Francisco joining next year, and potential expansions in Philadelphia, Toronto, Portland, Denver, Nashville, and South Florida.