



**College Football Players Association (CFBPA) Statement on H.R. 8534
“Protecting Student Athletes’ Economic Freedom Act”**

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Committee takes up House Resolution 8534 “Protecting Student Athletes’ Economic Freedom Act.” The CFBPA is unequivocally opposed to H.R. 8534 as it seeks to short circuit the on-going debate regarding whether or not college athletes are employees without providing any of the protections that would be afforded to an individual with employee status. If Congress is to take up the issue of college athlete employment status, it must not simply prohibit athletes from being deemed employees without providing any of the rights and protections available to employees.

This deceptively named bill does not contain a single actual protection for college athletes. We at the CFBPA are in favor of crafting innovative, forward-thinking and bipartisan solutions for a more sustainable college sports ecosystem. This bill is the opposite of all of these things. We are in favor of establishing new types of collective bargaining that may be more appropriate for college athletes, but we cannot endorse a bill that provides no avenue for collective bargaining while prohibiting athletes from becoming employees.