

THE ATHLETE'S BUREAU

June 13, 2024

Chairwoman Virginia Foxx
House Committee on Higher Education And Workforce Development
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Higher Education And Workforce Development
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Scott and members of the House Education and Workforce Committee.

I am writing this letter in opposition to H.R. 8534, the cynically named "Protecting Student Athlete's Economic Freedom Act". I am a current college athlete, who conducts formal polling of hundreds of current athletes, publishes a newsletter with thousands of athlete subscribers, and regularly engages with tens of thousands of my fellow athletes via my personal social media channels.

Because of the anticipated settlement of the House v. NCAA litigation, there is a fair amount of goodwill between athletes and the NCAA. Unfortunately, this bill runs the risk of undermining that goodwill and gives ammunition to the NCAA skeptics in a way that could actually spur broader labor actions by college athletes.

Below are the delineated points of opposition to this bill and supporting data that I would like the committee members to consider as you deliberate.

1. **The bill's name is the opposite of its intended purpose.**
It should be called the "**Prohibiting** Student Athletes' Economic Freedom Act". The slight of hand in the naming of this bill is precisely why college athletes do not trust Congress to act in their best interests (see "TAB College Athlete Poll" results below)
2. **The Bill undermines the value of work.** Many athletes work in excess of 40-50 hours a week on their sport. We do not begrudge this work, because being a college athlete is

the culmination of lifelong dreams. To have the opportunity for formal recognition (employee status) of this hard work foreclosed by congressional fiat is wrong.

3. **This Bill Is Not Bipartisan**: It does not have a single Democratic co-sponsor. College athlete rights are too big of an issue to be legislated by one-party. 520,000 current college athletes and millions of former/future college athletes would have their rights stripped away by this bill.
4. **The Bill Creates second-class citizenship for college athletes**. No other students on campus are barred from employment status by law. This would set a dangerous and backward-looking precedent and would spur litigation on Equal Protection grounds.
5. **The Bill Violates the spirit of Separation of Powers**. The athlete employment question is currently being thoughtfully adjudicated by the Judicial Branch (*Johnson v. NCAA* case) and the Executive Branch via an NLRB ruling in [Dartmouth Men's Basketball case](#). A NLRB administrative law judge ruled Dartmouth men's basketball athletes are employees, and the school has appealed to the National Board. This process should be allowed to run its course. There is also a pending NLRB ruling in the [USC case](#) (argued and not yet decided). There is no reason for the Legislative Branch to big foot those proceedings with a federal law.
6. **There is no public interest or constituency for this bill**. It is purely special interest legislation that enables the NCAA to deny college athletes the rights available to every other college student and American.
7. **There is no urgency for this bill or any federal legislation regarding the employment status of athletes**. Outside of the isolated cases outlined above there is no broad-based movement towards employment status or unionization by athletes. There is no reason for Congress to step in and absolve the NCAA of their responsibility to govern their association in a way that is fair and respects the full panoply of athletes' rights.

Below you will find college athlete polling data that supports the points of view I have expressed in this letter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chase Griffin

Chase Griffin
QB, UCLA Football
Publisher, The Athlete's Bureau

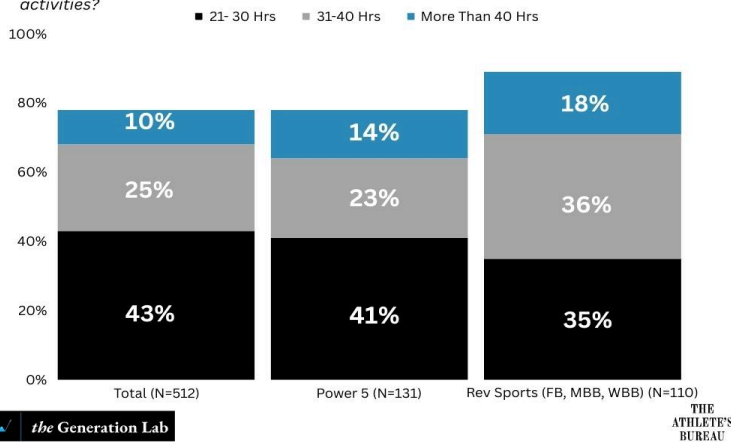
Supporting Data

The Athlete's Bureau & The Generation Lab College Athlete Poll (December, 2023)

The Vast Majority College Athletes Operate as Employees (Hours worked and control)

The amount of time college athletes spend on their sports exceeds the hours worked requirement to meet the definition of being a full-time employee.

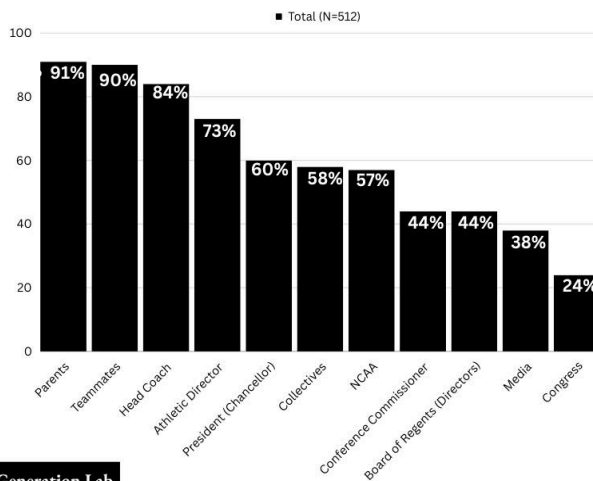
Question: How many hours per week do you spend on your sport or sport-related activities?



College Athletes Trust Congress the Least to protect their best interest

Trust in College Athletics Stakeholders (Totals)

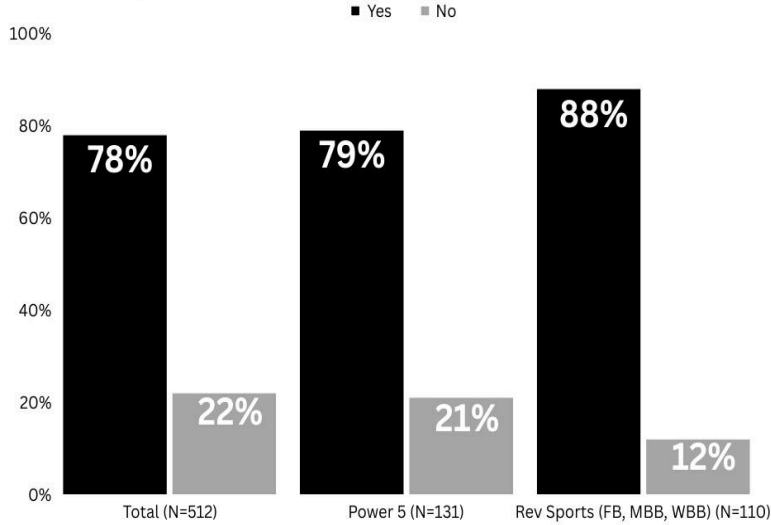
Question: To what extent do you trust the following people or institutions to advocate for the best interest of athletes?



College Athletes are energized to vote in 2024

College athletes are engaged and energized to vote in the 2024 elections.

Question: Do you plan to vote in the 2024 Elections?



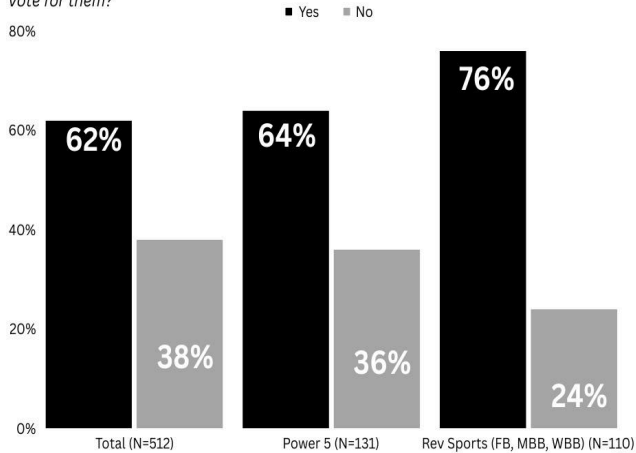
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College Athlete Economic Rights are a voting issue for college athletes in 2024

Athlete economic rights are a voting issue for an overwhelming majority of college athletes.

Question: Would a politician's support for NIL or Revenue Share affect your willingness to vote for them?



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