

Documents for the Record

Full Committee Markup

July 23, 2025

Submitted by the Majority

1. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from The American Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
2. Letter of Support for the SCORE Act from Jeff Bacon, Commissioner, Atlantic Sun Conference, to Members of the House Education and Workforce Committee.
3. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Atlantic Sun Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
4. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Big Sky Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
5. Statement of support for the SCORE Act from Sherika Montgomery, Commissioner, Big South Conference.
6. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Big Ten Student-Athlete Issues Commission.
7. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Big West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
8. Statement of support for the SCORE Act from Chris Colvin, Commissioner, Conference Carolinas.
9. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Horizon League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
10. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Ivy League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
11. Statement of support for the SCORE Act from Craig Pintens, Athletic Director, Loyola Marymount University.
12. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Missouri Valley Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
13. Letter from the undersigned coalition of Conferences to Chairmen Bilirakis, Guthrie, Jordan, and Walberg on the SCORE Act.
14. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the Northeast Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
15. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the PAC12 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
16. Letter of support for the SCORE Act from Jennifer Heppel, Commissioner, Patriot League.
17. Letter of support for the SCORE Act from Keith A. Gill, Commissioner, Sun Belt Conference.

18. Statement of Support for the SCORE Act from the University of North Florida Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
19. Letter from Brad Walker, Commissioner, America East Conference, on the SCORE Act.
20. Letter in support of the SCORE Act from J. Batt, Michigan State Vice President and Athletic Director, to Chairman Walberg.
21. Statement of support for the SCORE Act from the four NCAA Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) conference commissioners, the CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, and SWAC.
22. Letter of support for the SCORE Act from Jon A. Steinbrecher, Commissioner, Mid-American Conference.
23. Letter for support for the SCORE Act from Saving College Sports to Chairmen Guthrie and Walber and Ranking Members Pallone and Scott.

Bipartisan

1. Letter from the American Football Coaches Association in support of and offering feedback to the SCORE Act to Chairmen Guthrie and Bilirakis and Ranking Members Pallone and Schakowsky.

Submitted by the Minority

1. Statement on the SCORE Act.
2. Letter from Daniel R. Butterly, Commissioner, and Kristi Giddings, Deputy Commissioner, Big West Conference, to Rep. Baumgartner on the SCORE Act.
3. Letter from Democratic Women's Caucus to Chairmen Guthrie, Walberg, and Jordan expressing Title IX concerns with the SCORE Act.
4. Letter from four undersigned State Attorney's General and the DC Attorney General to Chairmen Walberg, Jordan, and Guthrie and Ranking Members Scott, Raskin, and Pallone expressing opposition to the SCORE Act.
5. Letter from undersigned organizations to Chairmen Guthrie, Jordan, and Walberg and Ranking Members Pallone, Raskin, and Scott in opposition to the SCORE Act.
6. Letter from AFL-CIO Sports Council to Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone in opposition to the SCORE Act.
7. Article from CNN titled "Prison documents reveal Jeffrey Epstein tried to reach out to Larry Nassar, gymnastics coach convicted of sexual abuse."



Statement of Support from The American Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Joy Graziano, and I am a current women's swimming and diving student-athlete at the University of North Texas, representing the student-athletes of The American Conference at the Division I level. The American Conference stretches across thirteen states including Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas with affiliate members in Virginia, West Virginia, New York, and Maryland.

We at The American wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete I understand that my coaches are my mentors and my leaders. The SCORE Act reinforces the idea that coaches are just that- mentors. The dynamic that currently exists in the athletic landscape provides student athletes with a space to express themselves and their talents. Our mentors and coaches help us balance our academics and athletics while always helping us become better athletes, students, and community members. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and promotes an environment that allows student-athletes to thrive as both students and as athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The American Conference strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your dedication to collegiate athletics,
Kindest regards,

As the representative of The American Conference SAAC,

Joy Graziano
The American SAAC NCAA Division I Representative
Women's Swimming and Diving
University of North Texas



Date: July 22, 2025

To: Distinguished Members of the House Education & Workforce Committee

From: Jeff Bacon, Commissioner, Atlantic Sun Conference

Subject: Support for H.R. 4312 (SCORE Act)

I am writing to express my support for H.R. 4312, the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act. As Commissioner of the Atlantic Sun Conference I am deeply invested in the future of collegiate athletics and the opportunity that it annually provides for hundreds of thousands of young people. I believe that this bipartisan legislation being considered is a necessary step towards ensuring a fair, equitable and sustainable framework for our industry and that only federal intervention can ensure that the proud American tradition of collegiate athletics continues while ensuring that student-athletes continue to benefit from Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) opportunities.

Over the past several years, collegiate athletics has become the wild, wild, west. With no ability to create national standards and no ability to enforce rules without an invitation for lawsuits, we have become tied up within a patchwork of state laws that are unmanageable. Further, student-athletes have become prey for those looking to “make a buck”, namely unlicensed “agents” that have been found to charge upwards of 20% or more of a student-athletes rights fees.

The SCORE Act takes direct aim at these issues and more, allowing for the creation and enforcement of fair and equitable rules while protecting our student-first model and Olympic sports. While perhaps in need of additional vetting to ensure the protection of institutions that are not members of an “Autonomous 4” Conference (Big Ten, SEC, ACC, Big 12), it provides much of the stability and clarity that the collegiate sports environment desperately needs.

Thank you for your work and attention to this important matter and remain available for consultation or additional information if helpful.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bacon
Commissioner, Atlantic Sun Conference



Statement of Support from the Atlantic Sun Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Grace Clark, I am a former women's golf student-athlete at Eastern Kentucky University, representing the student-athletes of the Atlantic Sun Conference at the Division I level. The Atlantic Sun stretches its regional mark across seven states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

We at the Atlantic Sun Conference whole heartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a former student-athlete, I know firsthand that my coaches and staff were so much more than just my bosses. They were my role models and, for many of us, felt like second parents. Ensuring this type of relationship is paramount to the student-athlete experience. It's about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, helping us balance the demands of academics and athletics and become well-rounded citizens. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Atlantic Sun SAAC strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate-athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Atlantic Sun Conference SAAC,

Grace Clark
ASUN NCAA Division I Representative
Former Women's Golf Athlete
Eastern Kentucky University



Statement of Support from the Big Sky Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Rhiannon Davies, and I am a current women's cross country and track student-athlete at Eastern Washington University, representing the student-athletes of the Big Sky Conference at the Division I level. The Big Sky stretches its regional mark across 8 states, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, California, and Arizona.

We at the Big Sky wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights and opportunities. As a current student-athlete, I have become increasingly aware of the difference between athletics and employment. The student-athlete experience has allowed me opportunities that prepare me for success both professionally and academically. Unlike a traditional job, practice has become a place to release my stress and remain competitive in a motivating environment. If I were an employee, this environment would become stressful, and the experience I have had thus far would be eliminated. This is why the SCORE Act is necessary, to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. Big Sky SAAC strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and effort to advance the student-athlete experience.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Big Sky Conference SAAC,

Rhiannon Davies
Big Sky NCAA Division I Representative
Cross Country/Track Student-Athlete
Eastern Washington University



STATEMENT ON SCORE ACT (H.R. 4312)

For more than 40 years, the Big South Conference has been an exemplary leader in college athletics, dedicated to developing student athletes through the pursuit of excellence in the classroom, community, and field of play. Comprised of nine (9) member institutions sharing a common geographic region and similar academic values and purposes, the Big South sponsors nineteen (19) championship sports while providing supreme academic experiences and highly competitive athletics to nearly 3,400 student athletes.

We support H.R. 4312, the SCORE Act, and urge your favorable consideration during the House Energy and Commerce Committee markup on Wednesday, July 23, 2025.

This bill prioritizes pillars aimed to preserve the student athlete collegiate experience in the post-House settlement era. The bill provides a national framework for Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) agreements and opportunities for student athletes, strengthens the rules and oversight of sports agents, provides conferences and universities limited liability protection, in accordance with the bill's provisions, including when establishing and enforcing rules for transfer and eligibility. Furthermore, the Act recognizes that educational outcomes for student athletes remain the top priority for students in our conferences by asserting they remain student athletes for purposes of competing at the collegiate level.

The SCORE Act is an important step towards providing student athletes and conferences clarity and stability as we enter another season of collegiate sports competition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Sherika A. Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning.

Sherika A. Montgomery
Commissioner
Big South Conference



Statement of Support from the Big Ten Student-Athlete Issues Commission (SAIC)

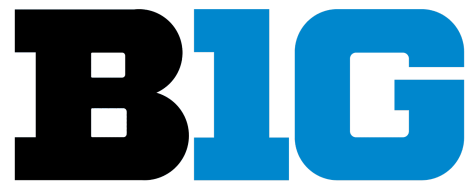
Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Abby Lynch, and I am a former women's soccer and track student-athlete at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. As Chair of the Big Ten Student-Athlete Issues Commission, I am an advocate and representative for the almost 10,000 Division 1 student-athletes of the Big Ten Conference. The Big Ten Conference stretches nationwide across 14 states, including California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) is a necessary and critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. I just recently finished up my athletic eligibility, and I am so thankful for the many opportunities that came with being a Division 1 student-athlete. My coaches and staff were so much more than authority figures; they were my role models and my greatest support system through some of my toughest and most developmental years. A student-athlete to coach relationship does not, and should not, function the same way as an employee to employer relationship. The genuine relationships between coaches and players are paramount to the student-athlete experience.

The Big Ten Conference serves as one of the biggest stages for college athletics in this country. I have had the opportunity to play with and compete alongside some of the best athletes in the world. There are hundreds of future Olympians and professional athletes currently competing in the Big Ten. With the rise of NIL and the recent enactment of the House Settlement, many student-athletes in the Big Ten have the opportunity to pursue life-changing financial gain from their athletic abilities and personal brand without designating them as employees.

This conference is also home to some of our country's top academic institutions where we as student-athletes have the opportunity to use athletics to financially support our education and fuel our careers after sport. Fewer than 2% of all Division 1



Statement of Support from the Big Ten Student-Athlete Issues Commission (SAIC)

student-athletes go on to compete professionally in their sport. The academic opportunity for student-athletes is central to the mission of college athletics, as are the many important life lessons derived from navigating the balance of college academics and athletics. The SCORE Act safeguards all student-athletes, no matter their sport or ability, and aims to foster an environment that promotes their holistic development.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Big Ten Conference strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, protection for Olympic sports, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your commitment to moving college athletics forward.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Big Ten Conference,

Abby Lynch
Big Ten NCAA Division I Representative
Chair of Big Ten Student-Athlete Issues Commission (SAIC)
Former Women's Soccer & Track Athlete
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Statement of Support from the Big West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Kyla Bruhn, and I am a current women's water polo student-athlete at UC San Diego, representing the student-athletes of the Big West Conference at the Division I level. The Big West includes institutions all across California, and will soon expand its reach to Utah.

We at the Big West Conference wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete, I've experienced firsthand how the student-athlete experience can be enriched when we are supported holistically. The resources provided through athletics have shaped my academic and personal growth, in addition to sport performance. Integral to this was the investment of my coaches in the aspects of my life that were not dependent on sport, which has been foundational to my development as a leader and scholar. The SCORE Act ensures an environment where student-athletes can maintain a level of high performance in all areas of their life, promoting the well-rounded development that prepares us for life beyond graduation.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students first, NOT employees. The Big West Conference SAAC strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your willingness to understand and for your commitment to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Big West Conference SAAC,

Kyla Bruhn
Big West NCAA Division I Representative
Women's Water Polo Student-Athlete
University of California, San Diego

Support for SCORE Act



Hello. This is Chris Colvin and I serve as Commissioner of Conference Carolinas. We are an NCAA Division II conference with a total of 16 institutions. While the majority of our institutions are based in the Carolinas (11), we also have institutions in Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia.

I am writing you today to express our support for the SCORE act. We believe this legislation will help protect the interests of small college athletics as well as the NCAA as a whole. This legislation has been a long time coming and I encourage you to help push it through now.

If you are receiving this email you have an institution in your district that is a member of Conference Carolinas.

Thank you!

Chris Colvin

Commissioner

[Conference Carolinas](#)

Champions in Body, Mind, and Soul



HORIZON LEAGUE.

Statement of Support from the Horizon League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Jahi McDonald, and I am a Men's Track and Field student-athlete at Wright State University, representing the student-athletes of the Horizon League at the Division I level. The Horizon League stretches its regional mark across six states, including Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

We at the Horizon League wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete, I know firsthand that the relationship with coaches and staff is much more than simply one of a boss. They are role models and, oftentimes those we go to for advice off the track, field, or court. Ensuring this type of relationship is essential to the student-athlete experience. It's about having mentors with the ability to guide us, not just direct us, helping us balance the demands of academics and athletics that can become overwhelming. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and creates an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Horizon League strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and commitment to enhancing college athletics for all student-athletes.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Horizon League SAAC,

Jahi McDonald
Horizon League NCAA Division I Representative
Track and Field Athlete
Wright State University



Statement of Support from the Ivy League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Daniella Henderson, and I am a current women's cross country and track & field student-athlete at Yale University, representing the student-athletes of the Ivy League Conference at the Division I level. Between the eight institutions in our conference, the Ivy League stretches its regional mark across seven states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

We at the Ivy League wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete, I have experienced firsthand the impact of a healthy, supportive, and above all, authentic relationship between athletes and their coaching staff. Coaches often feel like second parents—trusted guides as we navigate the challenges of balancing rigorous academics, athletics, and personal life. Protecting the integrity of a relationship built on mentorship and guidance rather than personal incentives or outside influence is of utmost importance. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for their holistic development.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. Ivy League SAAC strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the progress of college athletics.

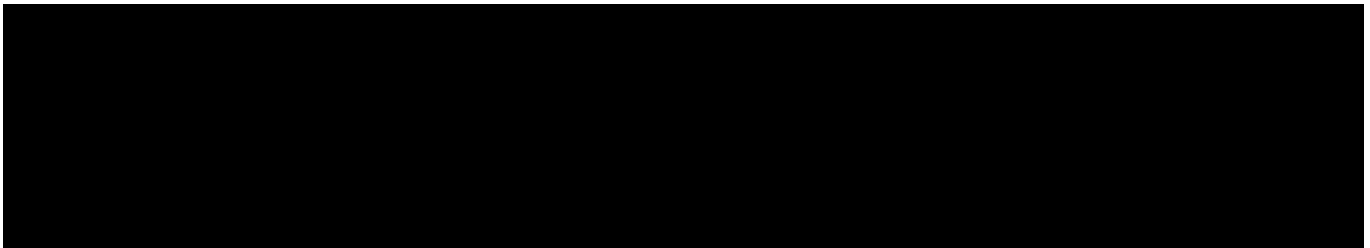
Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Ivy League Conference SAAC,

Daniella Henderson

Ivy League NCAA Division I Representative
Current Women's Cross Country/Track & Field Athlete
Yale University

SCORE ACT Amendment for Division I-AAA (Non-Football)



Marc,

I hope you are doing well. I'm writing to express our support for the **Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act** [H.R.4312, 119th Congress (2025–2026)], which represents a significant step forward in protecting student-athletes' rights and promoting fairness in collegiate athletics.

As with many federal legislative efforts in college athletics, we understand that the SCORE Act's provisions are modeled mainly around Division I institutions that sponsor football. One specific area we'd like to bring to your attention is the **requirement to sponsor 16 varsity sports**. For **Division I-AAA institutions**, such as Loyola Marymount University (which does not sponsor football), the NCAA currently requires sponsorship of **14 sports**.

We respectfully suggest that the SCORE Act be amended to reflect this distinction. Requiring non-football Division I institutions to sponsor 16 sports would place an undue burden on schools like LMU, which are already in full compliance with NCAA sport sponsorship requirements. Adding two additional sports would require significant financial and logistical resources, potentially diverting attention from the legislation's core goals.

We fully support the intent and direction of the SCORE Act and appreciate Congressman Lieu's leadership in this space. We ask that the legislation recognize the structural differences within Division I and ensure equitable implementation across all member institutions.

Please let me know if you'd be open to discussing this further or if there's a formal channel through which we can submit this recommendation.

Regards,

Craig

RECRUIT | TEACH | WIN | GRADUATE

Craig Pintens

Athletic Director





Statement of Support from the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Quinn Millerd, and I am a current men's soccer student-athlete at Drake University, representing the student-athletes of the Missouri Valley Conference at the Division I level. The Missouri Valley Conference stretches its regional mark across 5 states, including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

As the Missouri Valley Conference chair for two years and current DI SAAC representative, I wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. Being a current student athlete and young man, my coaches continue to be the gentle hand that helps me navigate the world around. Losing the opportunity to build a real personal connection to the people you spend the most time around as a student athlete would be a detriment to college athletics. If they became my employer, how could I go to them and ask about life struggles? If they were my employer, would they even care about my mental well-being? Sport helps us grow as people. Yes, we all want to perform and win as a group, but without a player-to-coach relationship, how are we supposed to see them as a part of the team? The SCORE Act protects this relationship while helping us all connect and create a winning environment in and out of competition. The togetherness of our coaches and players is how Congress should act, not as an employer but as a team.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. As the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC representative and former chair, I do not speak directly for everyone. Still, I believe I echo their sentiment that would strongly support the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and I hope my sentiment goes to heart when you consider your vote on the SCORE Act



Statement of Support from the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC,

Quinn Millerd
Men's Soccer Student Athlete
Drake University
Missouri Valley Conference



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce
2306 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
2142 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman, Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman, Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Bilirakis, Guthrie, Jordan and Walberg:

Our nine conferences represent nearly one-third of NCAA Division I, 99 universities, and nearly 40,000 student athletes - we write to thank you for stepping forward to address the stressed post-*House v. NCAA* collegiate athletic world with the SCORE Act and urge you to further strengthen it to ensure that a sustainable path forward is provided.

Our student athletes and member schools take great pride in competing in NCAA Division I athletics. We're also proud to be a critical part of the social fabric in the communities we serve as well as key economic contributors in towns both large and small throughout the United States. But perhaps our most important and impactful role is providing thousands of student athletes the opportunity to earn a college degree – an opportunity many would not have otherwise had, and a means to a more financially secure future.

To continue this uniquely American tradition of college athletics positively impacting the lives of students on and off the field, and with the understanding that fewer than two percent of college athletes turn pro, we believe it's critical that Congress provide a fair and sustainable path forward for all student athletes that prioritizes their experiences and equitably maximizes opportunities, regardless of what conference they play in.

There are several provisions of the SCORE Act we strongly support: enabling student athletes to be compensated for their name, image, and likeness (NIL), creating a national NIL standard, providing liability protection for conferences and schools that play by the rules, and designating athletes as students, rather than employees of the schools in which they are

enrolled. We are also heartened that the legislation will bring greater transparency and accountability to the increasingly predatory world of sports agents.

But while we respect and understand your reluctance to be overly prescriptive in this legislation, the bill does not fully capture the concerns of institutions outside the 'Autonomy Four' (also referred to as the 'Power 4') conferences. For example, we believe that our student athletes and member schools should:


- Be protected from possible changes to NCAA Division I membership standards as a byproduct of a new governance structure that incorporates weighted voting for the 'Autonomy Four' (A4) without meaningful representation from the other 28 NCAA Division I conferences
- Maintain existing NCAA revenue distributions at current percentages / levels and participate in a collaborative approach with future / new revenue distributions, as was evident in the recently created Women's Basketball Unit (dollars distributed should remain equivalent to current percentages), and keeping in mind that revenue from the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship represents 92 percent of the NCAA's revenue which must be protected, along with access to this championship
- Retain meaningful access to championships, as is currently earned and structured, for all NCAA Division I conferences and not be relegated to "play-in" games
- Protection from disproportionate damages in future lawsuits
- Maximize equitable opportunities for student athletes while being protected from unfunded mandates that could diminish those opportunities for certain groups and provide universities flexibility in determining how to sponsor and fund sports opportunities under existing NCAA legislation while adhering to the requirements of Title IX.

The overwhelming majority of Division I, falls outside the ACC, B1G, Big XII, SEC Autonomy 4 Conferences (A4). If we are to preserve college athletic programs like those represented by our nine conferences in this post- *House v. NCAA* environment, a fair and sustainable path forward needs to provide protections regarding our concerns. Our student-athletes, schools, and communities deserve to have stability for our athletic programs despite not having access to the

same revenue opportunities as A4 institutions, which are heavily driven by the value of football through conference media rights and participation in the College Football Playoff outside the structure of the NCAA.

As the SCORE Act continues its path through the House of Representatives, we stand ready to work with you to ensure that this legislation puts all of America's current and future student athletes, along with their schools and the communities they support, on a fair and sustainable path forward.

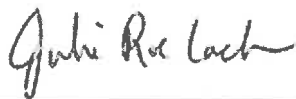
Sincerely,



Ms. Bernadette V. McGlade
Commissioner, Atlantic 10



Mr. Tom Wistrick
Commissioner, Big Sky Conference



Ms. Julie Roe Lach
Commissioner, Horizon League



Mr. Travis Tellitocci
Commissioner, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference



Ms. Beth DeBauche
Commissioner, Ohio Valley Conference



Mr. Michael Cross
Commissioner, The Southern Conference



Mr. Josh Fenton
Commissioner, The Summit League



Ms. Rebekah Ray
Commissioner, Western Athletic Conference



Mr. Stu Jackson
Commissioner, West Coast Conference



Statement of Support from the Northeast Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Diego Diaz, a Men's Volleyball student-athlete at Fairleigh Dickinson University- Metropolitan, representing the student-athletes of the Northeast Conference at the Division I level. The Northeast Conference spans its regional mark across six states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

We at the Northeast Conference wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current Division I student-athlete, I can personally attest to the great opportunity college athletics has provided me. The core of college athletics has always been about more than competition—it's about shaping well-rounded individuals prepared for success in life, whether in professional sports or the broader workforce. Introducing institutional employment would undermine this foundation, shifting the focus away from education, personal growth, and the unique opportunities afforded to student-athletes.

From personal experience, I've been able to pursue two degrees, gain valuable internships in my field of study, and grow as an athlete, teammate, and leader—all without the added pressures of employment. This freedom has allowed me to fully embrace the college experience and prepare for life beyond athletics. For these reasons, it is vital that we protect and preserve the holistic development of student-athletes, ensuring they can continue to thrive academically, athletically, and personally before entering the demands of the professional world.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Northeast Conference strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational

resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Northeast Conference SAAC,

Diego Diaz
Northeast Conference NCAA Division I Representative
Men's Volleyball Student-Athlete
Fairleigh Dickinson University- Metropolitan

INSERT CONFERENCE LOGO

Statement of Support from the CONFERENCE NAME Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Jennifer McMillan, and I am a representative of the student-athletes for the PAC12 Conference at the Division I level. The PAC12 has a rich history of producing olympians and elite student athletes across many states, with their current focus being Washington and Oregon.

We at the PAC12 wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a student-athlete, I've experienced firsthand the impact that my coaches and staff have had. Not only are they leaders in the gym but they have been role models, mentors, and, in many cases, second parents. It is beyond evident the impact that the staff and coaches have on the athletes, and having these influences in our lives has been paramount to our success on and off the floor. Ensuring this type of relationship remains is crucial to the student-athlete experience. It's about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, helping us balance the demands of academics and athletics and become well-rounded citizens. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The PAC12 strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the PAC12 SAAC,

Jennifer McMillan
PAC12 NCAA Division I Representative
Women's Gymnastics
Oregon State University

INSERT CONFERENCE LOGO

Statement of Support from the CONFERENCE NAME Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)



Today's Scholar-Athletes ~ Tomorrow's Leaders

One Bethlehem Plaza • Suite 800 • Bethlehem, PA 18018 • (610) 289-1950

July 22, 2025

Dear Distinguished Congressional Members:

On behalf of the Council of Presidents of the Patriot League, I write in support of the SCORE Act (H.R. 4312). The bill passed out of subcommittee last week and we understand that the House Education & Workforce and Energy & Commerce Committees will hold mark-ups tomorrow, July 23.

The Patriot League is a Division I conference composed of ten institutions. We are a broad-based conference sponsoring 24 sports and providing athletic opportunities for over 8,200 student-athletes. The League is a leader in academic success and graduation metrics, including boasting the highest student-athlete retention rate in Division I. Our model supports competition at the highest level, while prioritizing the ability of our student-athletes to fully engage in academic pursuits and campus life.

The SCORE Act effectively addresses our primary concern of ensuring student-athletes are not considered employees of our institutions. We also support the bill's narrowly tailored protections that allow college athletics to make and enforce reasonable, national rules in areas such as academic and athletic eligibility, as well as the provisions that preempt the patchwork of state Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and other laws.

There are some technical provisions in the bill that may need to be amended to ensure student-athletes and schools are not inadvertently impacted. These include provisions related to salary thresholds that determine which schools the bill's requirements apply to, and requirements around the provision of legal advice and tax-related counsel to student-athletes.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you and/or your staff. If you would like to schedule a meeting, I can be reached at jheppel@patriotleague.com or 202-379-6044. I look forward to the opportunity to share any feedback that may help make this already strong bill even stronger.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Heppel
Commissioner

Representatives Allen, Fry, Carter, Foxx, Letlow, and Scott:

As Commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, I am writing to express our strong support for the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act. Sun Belt Conference member institutions or the conference office are in your congressional districts, so we are contacting you directly regarding our thoughts on the bill prior to tomorrow's meetings of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The SCORE Act represents a critical step in creating a sustainable future for college athletics, protecting student-athletes' rights and well-being, and ensuring fair competition across NCAA Division I.

Support NIL Uniformity, Student Status, Rule-making Authority, and Limited Safe Harbor

The current landscape of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) has been marked by a chaotic patchwork of state laws and legal uncertainty. The SCORE Act addresses this directly by establishing a uniform national NIL standard, which is crucial for preventing institutions and student-athletes in different states from facing a competitive disadvantage.

Furthermore, the SCORE Act rightly reaffirms the student-first model by protecting student-athletes from being classified as employees of an institution or conference. This non-employment status is vital for preserving the integrity of college athletics and ensuring that the pathway to education and opportunity remains viable, as employment mandates could render some athletic programs financially untenable.

The bill is consistent with the recent House settlement and NCAA core guarantee legislation as it expands access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy protections, financial transparency, medical care, degree completion, and other health, safety, and educational resources for student-athletes. It also explicitly prohibits pay-for-play and predatory agent compensation schemes.

We also welcome the Act's confirmation of the NCAA's rule-making authority in areas such as athletics eligibility timeframes, academic eligibility, and transfer requirements. The bill provides that each student-athlete may transfer between institutions and be immediately eligible on at least one occasion. Other transfer and eligibility requirements will be determined by the NCAA who will have the most accurate data around academic and graduation outcomes.

Finally, we commend the bill's intent to provide a limited and conditional safe harbor for conferences and the NCAA. This protection is essential for college sports to establish and enforce reasonable and uniform national competition standards.

Concerns and Suggested Amendments

While we strongly support the overarching goals and many provisions of the SCORE Act, we believe certain sections could benefit from amendments to ensure greater equity, feasibility, and sustainability, particularly for institutions outside the highest revenue-generating conferences, such as those in the Sun Belt. Concerns have been raised that, without appropriate guardrails, the codification of certain provisions from the recent settlement could accelerate the consolidation of resources and competitive advantages among a narrow subset of programs, risking unintended harm to Olympic sports, women's athletics, and non-autonomy conference programs.

Based on insights from the sources, we propose the following areas for amendment:

- **Salary Threshold Applicability (Section 5(c)):** The legislation would apply to any school employing a coach earning over \$250,000 in base salary. This could unintentionally not capture some Division I schools, leading to disparate impacts. The legislation should apply to all Division I institutions.
- **Medical Benefits Duration (Section 5(a)):** The requirement to provide medical benefits for injuries sustained during play for three years post-graduation is one year more than current NCAA bylaws require. The legislation should be amended to two years and remain consistent with current NCAA rules.

- **NIL Tax and Legal Counsel (Section 5(a)):** The bill requires schools to provide NIL tax-related counsel and legal advice, which is not required under current bylaws and creates a new, unfunded burden. Not to mention, this requirement places a new liability on our institution and staff.

Summary

The Sun Belt Conference is committed to the success and holistic development of our student-athletes. We believe the SCORE Act provides a strong foundation for the future of college sports, but targeted amendments addressing practical and equity concerns will ensure the legislation's positive impact across the diverse landscape of NCAA Division I.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these critical issues. We stand ready to collaborate with you to refine this vital legislation.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAG', written in a cursive, stylized font.

Keith A. Gill

Commissioner

Sund Belt Conference



Statement of Support from the University of North Florida Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Anslee Long, I am a women's tennis student-athlete representing the student-athletes at The University of North Florida on a conference level. The Atlantic Sun Conference stretches its regional mark across 7 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

We at The University of North Florida, whole heartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete, I know firsthand that my coaches and staff are so much more than just my bosses. They are my role models and, for many of us, feel like second parents. Ensuring this type of relationship is paramount to the student-athlete experience. It's about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, helping us balance the demands of academics and athletics and becoming well-rounded citizens. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The University of North Florida strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate-athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.
Kindest regards,

As the representative of the University of North Florida SAAC,

Anslee Long
University of North Florida SAAC Chair



America East Conference
Office of the Commissioner
451 D Street, 705B
Boston, MA 02110
walker@americaeast.com

July 22, 2025

Ali Watson
Member Services and Coalitions Director
House Committee on Education and Workforce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Watson,

On behalf of the America East Conference and its member institutions, I want to thank you for your leadership, and we appreciate your commitment to enhancing the intercollegiate athletics experience and ensuring that student-athletes are supported in meaningful and equitable ways.

As a mid-major Division I conference, the America East Conference is deeply invested in the academic, athletic and personal development of our student-athletes. We support the SCORE Act's goals of increasing transparency, fairness and opportunity in college sports. However, we respectfully offer the following perspectives on key provisions of the bill and their potential impact on our institutions and student-athletes:

Section 5(c) – Salary Threshold

The \$250,000 base salary threshold may unintentionally capture some Division II institutions while excluding certain Division I programs. This could lead to inconsistent application of the law and create disparities in compliance obligations. We recommend a more holistic metric to better reflect institutional ability.

Section 5(a)(5) – Sport Sponsorship Requirement

Requiring institutions that meet the salary threshold to sponsor 16 varsity sports exceeds the current NCAA requirement for non-FBS Division I institutions; the FCS Division I requirement is 14 varsity sports. While we support broad-based participation, this mandate could strain smaller athletic departments and potentially jeopardize the sustainability of existing programs. We encourage flexibility for non-FBS institutions.

Section 5(a) – Medical and NIL Support Requirements

We strongly support enhanced medical coverage and NIL education for student-athletes. The America East Conference and member institutions supported the NCAA Student-Athlete Core Guarantees legislation requiring DI institutions to provide medical care, including coverage of out-of-pocket medical expenses to student-athletes who suffered an athletically related injury for two

years after graduation, or separation from the institution. Additionally, as of August 1, 2024, the NCAA established the post eligibility insurance program which provides excess accident medical insurance for all student-athletes who suffered an athlete-related injury. These two programs are in addition to the previously established NCAA catastrophic injury insurance program. Extending post-eligibility health insurance to three years and providing tax/legal counsel for NIL activities are commendable goals. However, these services come with significant financial and staffing implications. We urge consideration of federal support or shared service models to ensure equitable implementation across all institutions.

Section 9(b) – Student Fees Transparency

We support transparency in student fee usage and already uphold high standards of accountability. However, restrictions on student fee use for institutions with high media rights revenue should be carefully defined to avoid unintended consequences for mid-major programs with growing digital platforms but modest overall revenue.

Student-Athlete Perspective

Our student-athletes value fairness, opportunity, and well-being. They support the SCORE Act's emphasis on transparency and health protections but are concerned about inconsistent application and the potential for resource strain. They want to ensure that reforms enhance—not limit—their opportunities, regardless of institutional size or budget.

Additionally, we also acknowledge and appreciate President Trump's recent executive order to establish national standards for Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) initiatives. This action represents a significant step toward resolving the current patchwork of state laws that has created confusion and competitive imbalance across collegiate athletics. From the perspective of the America East Conference, a consistent federal NIL framework is essential to ensure fairness and clarity for student-athletes and institutions alike.

We support the executive order's goals of promoting transparency, protecting student-athletes from exploitative practices, and reducing compliance burdens. However, we urge that any national standards be scalable and sensitive to the diversity of NCAA institutions. A one-size-fits-all approach could unintentionally disadvantage mid-major conferences and non-FBS institutions. We advocate for solutions that uphold fairness while recognizing the resource limitations of smaller programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in this important dialogue and look forward to working with you to ensure that the SCORE Act achieves its intended goals while supporting the diverse landscape of collegiate athletics.

Sincerely,



Brad Walker
Commissioner
America East Conference



J Batt | Vice President and
Director of Athletics

MICHIGAN STATE ATHLETICS

July 14, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
United States House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Walberg,

I wanted to take a quick moment to introduce myself and express my gratitude for your work introducing the SCORE Act last week.

Prior to being named Vice President and Director of Athletics at Michigan State in June, I served in the same role at Georgia Tech. While there I worked with a small group of athletic directors from across the country on the House Settlement Implementation Committee. While the House v. NCAA is a positive step, I firmly believe federal legislation is still a necessity.

Like you, I believe federal legislation to establish a national framework for Name, Image, and Likeness in college athletics will provide ample opportunities for student-athletes, while also providing the guardrails to stabilize college athletics and ensure the continued holistic support of student-athletes across all sports. This is legislation that will benefit athletic departments throughout Michigan, unifying our great fan bases, regardless of who they support.

I realize there is much work still to be done, but I want to offer up the support of myself and Michigan State Athletics. If there's anything we can do to help move the bill forward, please don't hesitate to ask.

I hope we have the opportunity to meet in the near future, and I look forward to continued interaction on this topic.

Best,



J Batt
Michigan State Vice President and Director of Athletics

From: Jacqie McWilliams <[REDACTED]>

Date: July 22, 2025 at 9:25:43 PM EDT

To: "Hellmann, Natalie" <[REDACTED]>, Eddie Weatherington <[REDACTED]>, Charles McClelland <[REDACTED]>, Sonja Stills <[REDACTED]>, Anthony Holloman <[REDACTED]>

Cc: "Buth, Dawn" <[REDACTED]>, "Leganski (Giannangeli), Giulia" <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: SCORE Act Updated Draft

Natalie, thank you and your team for the quick responses and attention over the past few days!

Here is our updated statement per the revisions! Please free to share publicly, and if there's anything else you need at this time, please let us know!

The commissioners of the four NCAA HBCU athletic conferences (CIAA, MEAC, SIAC and SWAC) commends the introduction of the bipartisan SCORE Act and we fully support provisions in the bill that: 1) protect future opportunities for student-athletes by ensuring they are not employees of their institutions, 2) provide limited liability protections for associations and conferences like ours to make and enforce reasonable uniform rules, and 3) preempting the current patchwork of state laws. We applaud the SCORE Act's sponsors for their leadership on this issue and look forward to working with them and other members of Congress to ensure that final legislation creates better outcomes for all student-athletes, including those at HBCUs and better outcomes for the broader HBCU community.

NCAA HBCU Commissioners

Jacqie McWilliams Parker | Commissioner

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Mailing: 4100 Carmel Rd Suite 200 #247 | Charlotte, NC 28226

Physical: 7422 Carmel Executive Park Dr Suite 300 | Charlotte, NC 28226

Office Phone Number: (704) 910-2133





July 22, 2025

Members of the House Energy and Commerce committee

The Mid-American Conference support H.R. 4312, the SCORE Act and urge your favorable consideration during Energy and Commerce markup on Wednesday, July 23.

This bill goes a long way towards preserving the student-athlete collegiate experience in the post-*House* settlement era. The bill provides a national framework for Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) agreements for student athletes, strengthens the rules and oversight of sports agents, provides conferences and universities limited liability protection, in accordance with the bill's provisions, including when establishing and enforcing rules for transfer and eligibility. Furthermore, the Act recognizes that educational outcomes for these athletes remain the top priority for students in our conferences by asserting they remain student athletes for purposes of competing at the collegiate level.

The Mid-American Conference student-athletes support this bill and are encouraged that the drafting of the bill took into consideration their previous outreach via comments in the spring of 2024 and winter of 2025.

This bill is an important step towards providing student athletes and conferences stability and certainty as we enter another season of collegiate sports competition. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Jon A. Steinbrecher, Commissioner
Mid-American Conference



SAVING
COLLEGE
SPORTS

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Letter from Saving College Sports in Support of the bipartisan SCORE Act

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Walberg, and Ranking Member Pallone and Scott:

Saving College Sports writes today in support of H.R. 4312, *the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act*. As we all know, college sports sit at an existential crossroads that threatens the invaluable opportunities of thousands of student-athletes that can only be provided by college sports. We applaud your leadership, as well as the leadership of the bill sponsors, in creating bipartisan efforts to fight to save college sports and student-athlete rights. Marking up this introduced legislation in your Committees is an important first step in providing a framework that successfully meets the challenges of the evolving college sports landscape. Our organization looks forward to the opportunity to work with you and the sponsors of the legislation, between the full Committee markup and floor consideration, to create an economically sound future for all student-athletes in all sports, including women's sports and Olympic sports.

While we understand that the bill reflects the result of an ongoing process, our organization is greatly encouraged to see that the following concepts are a part of the early drafts of this legislation: the right for student-athletes to have representation along with protections for student-athletes availing themselves of agents; federal pre-emption to allow for consistency for all student-athletes; creating requirements for institutions to provide academic support, career

counseling, medical and health benefits, mental health counseling, and insurance; creating transparency for student athletes in the NIL marketplace; non-employee status; and keeping the Federal Trade Commission out of College Sports.

We believe that the future of all student-athletes requires college sports to add fuel to the economic engine. Through careful study, our organization believes that fuel to grow the college sports economic pie large enough to ensure the future of college sports programs includes: (1) updates to the *Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961*, allowing all conferences to respectively double the media rights to ensure the health of revenue and non-revenue sports; (2) providing additional protections for students from predatory agents, including a commission cap for any NIL compensation received by student athletes; (3) creating rules on eligibility, transfer, roster size, in and out of season practices and team activities, and recruiting; (4) establishing a new governing body for College Sports; and (5) instituting an across-the-board ban on collectives.

Our national intercollegiate athletics system is unreplicated and unparalleled anywhere in the world. It now provides an opportunity to more than 532,000 student-athletes annually and has most recently trained the winners of 329 medals in the Paris Olympics. This system remains core to the strength and success of our nation. It develops leadership, work ethic, toughness, and competitive spirit, and provides the promise of education and social mobility to many who otherwise would not enjoy such opportunities.

This isn't just about the premier and highest-profile programs. All programs and all sports provide these opportunities to our future leaders. We understand that college football and men's college basketball generate significant revenue, enabling institutions to fund women's sports and Olympic programs, which we need. Our student-athletes, for whom we cheer on every college campus and the world stage alike, deserve every tool available to ensure their opportunities continue. We cannot allow the system to fall apart on our watch. It isn't an option and isn't in the American spirit.

We can save college sports. But to do so, we must approach the issue boldly, decisively and with urgency. Once again, we applaud your leadership on this issue, and we stand ready to do everything we can to help build a better solution that meets our shared goals: protecting student-athletes and enabling them to create a better future through athletics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'DP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

David Polyansky
Executive Director
Saving College Sports



Craig Bohl
Executive Director

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July 23, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing & Trade

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing & Trade

Dear Chairmen Guthrie & Bilirakis and Ranking Members Pallone & Schakowsky:

The American Football Coaches Association, an association of 11,000 coaches, would like to thank you both and the Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for working to address issues related to the regulation of agents in college sports.

Student-athletes rightfully deserve to be compensated for their name, image, and likeness (NIL). However, as compensation for young athletes has grown, coaches have seen an increase in unscrupulous and unregulated agents looking to exploit the NIL system and take advantage of student athletes. Without national regulation of agents and a standard clearinghouse, abuses will only continue to grow.

We thank you for strengthening the language in the AINS to H.R. 4312, particularly the following:

- The AFCA strongly supports the inclusion of player protection language that calls for an intercollegiate athletic association to establish of a process to register agents and create a national database of agents. Right now, there is nowhere for young athletes, parents, coaches or athletic directors to go to verify agent credentials or qualifications.
- We also strongly support the provisions calling for the limitations on compensation of agents to no more than a 5% commission on NIL agreements and a 5% commission on endorsements. These strong limits will help stop the financial exploitation of athletes and their families that is now rampant.

The AFCA continues to have serious concerns with the two waiver provisions in the AINS to H.R. 4312 allowing for unregistered agents to negotiate on behalf of student athletes and institutions to negotiate with unregistered agents. We favor a national system where *all agents* are required to be registered and certified with a set of minimum standards.

Additionally, we are also concerned with the provision in the AINS to H.R. 4312 that mandates state enforcement of provisions on agents. The inconsistent patchwork of state laws created the current problem. Enforcement of NIL agent provisions by states will continue the regulatory "race to the bottom."

We strongly favor a national system of oversight, regulation and enforcement by a national independent entity empowered by Congress, perhaps an intercollegiate athletic association. Establishing a clear national system of agent standards and stronger protections for student-athletes is critically important.

The AFCA shares your commitment to safeguarding student-athletes and ensuring the integrity of college sports. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to advance meaningful solutions and represent the concerns of coaches and athletes alike.

Sincerely,

Coach Craig Bohl
Executive Director

The American Football Coaches Association

• 100 Legends Lane • Waco, Texas 76706 •
• (254) 754-9900 • FAX: (254) 754-7373 • www.afca.com • info@afca.com •

The SCORE Act Allows Athletic Associations to Continue to Take Advantage of Student Athletes by Exempting them from the Antitrust Laws

What are antitrust laws? Antitrust laws were created to protect the little guy — the worker, the small business owner, the student athlete — from getting taken advantage of by corporate giants who care more about their revenue and stock prices than paying fair wages or keeping prices low. Simply put the antitrust laws prevent a single entity, or a group of entities acting in concert, from having so much power that they distort the market.

How does the SCORE Act treat antitrust violations? The SCORE Act contains a sweeping antitrust exemption in section 7. This exemption would allow the newly-created Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Associations to continue anti-competitive practices that benefit universities and conferences at the expense of student athletes. More specifically, the SCORE Act would allow antitrust accountability in a very narrow set of circumstances (if they violate section 6 of the bill). But any other type of antitrust claim against the Associations would be prohibited by the antitrust exemption contained in section 7.

Is the NCAA engaging in anticompetitive behavior beyond what's covered in section 6 of the bill? The NCAA exerts massive control over nearly every aspect of college athletics: rules, eligibility, scholarships, and even how money gets shared. Their monopolistic behavior goes far beyond what is covered in the *House* settlement and the SCORE Act.

Student athletes have filed antitrust cases against the NCAA alleging collusive behavior that harms students that has not been resolved by the *House* settlement and that is not included in Section 6 of the legislation. The IIAAs established by the SCORE Act would be immunized from any antitrust liability for the same conduct under the terms of the legislation. Here are two examples:

Possible Ivy League collusion immunized. In *Tamenang Choh and Grace Kirk v. Brown University, et al.*,¹ which is currently on appeal in the Second Circuit, former student-athletes are suing the eight member universities of the Ivy League and the Ivy League Council of Presidents over the League policy, memorialized in the Ivy League Agreement signed in 1954, that Ivy League Universities would not provide athletic scholarships to their students or otherwise compensate student-athletes for the athletic services they provide. The plaintiffs sued the Ivy League under the federal antitrust laws, alleging that the defendants conspired through the Ivy League Agreement to suppress financial aid to student-athletes by barring athletic scholarships. Under the SCORE Act, the Ivy League could reincorporate as an Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Association and receive an antitrust exemption for agreeing not to offer athletic scholarships because that action would still be “in compliance” with Section 6 of the Act.

¹ *Tamenang Choh and Grace Kirk v. Brown University, et al.*¹ Civil Action No. 23-305, (US District Court for the District of Connecticut)

NCAA rules force student athletes to give up prize money. In *Reese Brantmeier and Maya Joint v. NCAA*², two student tennis players sued the NCAA under the antitrust laws alleging collusion that deprived them of prize money they won in tennis tournaments outside of college athletics. Under NCAA rules, current student-athletes competing in tennis may only accept Prize Money *up to but not exceeding the amount of their “actual and necessary expenses.”* Prospective student athletes may accept *up to \$10,000* prior to collegiate enrollment. In order to compete in NCAA athletic competitions, the players had to give up most of the prize money they had won before and during college, totaling tens of thousands of dollars. Otherwise, they would have been ineligible to play under NCAA rules. This problem was NOT addressed by the *House* settlement.

Under the SCORE Act, the IIAAs would be immunized from any antitrust liability for denying prize money to student athletes, because denying prize money is not a violation of Section 6 of the bill.

The House litigation and settlement cracked wide open extreme anticompetitive behavior on the part of the NCAA that has been going on for decades. But there is much more to do.

Why would Congress want to take away the tools needed to make sure they are unable to continue to bully student athletes?

² *Reese Brantmeier and Maya Joint on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated v. NCAA*, Civil Action No. 1:24CV238, (US District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina).



100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 420
Irvine, California 92618
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www.BigWest.org
ONLY THE BOLD.™

July 22, 2025

To: Congressman Michael Baumgartner

Re: Feedback on the SCORE Act and Proposed Executive Order on NIL

Thank you for your leadership on college athletics and your willingness to engage directly with those of us working every day to support student-athletes. As Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of The Big West, we represent institutions that compete at the highest level of NCAA athletics — but do so without the financial machinery available to those within the College Football Playoff-aligned conferences (CFP4). The Big West (and many conferences like us) believe in the mission of college sports, but we need thoughtful legislation that preserves opportunity, ensures competitive opportunity, and reflects our economic reality.

Key Points of Feedback on the SCORE Act

1. The 16-Sport Minimum Requirement Will Harm More Than Help

Though the proposed 16-sport requirement at first appears to support broad-based athletic opportunities — especially for Olympic sports and women's programs, it will unintentionally harm them. Most NCAA Division I athletic departments already operate with tight margins or at a significant financial loss. Forcing them to sponsor more sports while absorbing new costs associated with the *House* settlement, new NCAA health and safety initiatives, and requirements of this proposed bill may result in:

- Cutting existing programs to comply and/or
- Dropping competitiveness across all sports due to underinvestment.

Recommendation: Replace the 16-sport mandate with a flexible, resource-based threshold that accounts for institutional size and funding levels, while still providing broad-based and Title IX aligned athletic opportunities.

2. The CFP4 Have Revenue Tools the Rest of Us Do Not

The sixty-eight institutions that make up the four conferences dominating the College Football Playoff (CFP4) have a direct pathway to manage *House* settlement costs: simply expand the playoff to generate hundreds of millions in additional revenue. Such an expansion may also benefit the institutions within the “Group of 6” conferences that also participate in FBS football.

In contrast, over 220 Division I institutions that do not sponsor FBS football have:

- No access to or stake in CFP revenues.
- No ability to monetize increased exposure in the same way.
- Higher dependency on student fees, institutional subsidies, and tuition dollars.

Concern: Without legislative differentiation, the SCORE Act cements a two-tiered system that advantages a handful of institutions and marginalizes the rest.

3. The Degree Completion Program Required by the Act is Overbroad and Ambiguous

Requiring institutions to provide degree-completion financial aid to any student-athlete who received a grant-in-aid but did not graduate from that institution is overbroad. At a minimum, the language should be amended to account for transfers – if a student-athlete initially enrolls at Institution A with a grant-in-aid but then transfers to Institution B, Institution A should not be responsible for the cost of that student’s degree completion; Institution B should. Additional consideration should also be given to whether any exceptions to the degree-completion program would be permitted. For instance, if a student enrolls at Institution A and receives athletics aid but later gets expelled for disciplinary/conduct concerns unrelated to athletics, institutional policy may prohibit that student from re-enrolling, thereby making it impossible for the student to complete a degree at that institution.

In its current form, the bill does not specify whether the proposed degree completion program would apply to require institutions to provide a grant-in-aid for a student-athlete to complete a degree at a different institution. Using the example above of a student who gets expelled from Institution A and is prohibited from re-enrolling by institutional policy, the bill does not address whether Institution A would be required to provide financial aid to the expelled student to complete a degree at a different institution.

4. Requiring Written Notice of Transfer Credits Before Transfer Ignores Academic Realities

Language requiring institutions to provide any student-athlete who is considering transferring with a written notice of which previously earned credits the institution will accept prior to completion of the transfer ignores legitimate academic realities that exist wholly unrelated to athletics and is simply not always feasible. Institutions process large numbers of incoming transfer students (not just student-athletes) each year and the work of determining which credits will be accepted and exactly what course they will transfer in as is conducted by academic units outside the athletics department and can legitimately take months.

5. Federal Framework: Guardrails, Not Governance

We support federal preemption of state NIL laws to ensure a level playing field. But we caution against replacing NCAA overreach with federal micromanagement. Throughout my career, there have been significant concerns expressed on government involvement in college athletics, and I remain concerned with ongoing daily government intervention. However, the continued litigation requires government assistance to help us best manage NCAA athletics. The best framework for involvement:

- Ensures transparency (e.g., through a central registry for NIL deals).
- Protects Title IX compliance and Olympic sports.
- Encourages broad participation and representation, not consolidation of power.
- Provides implementation flexibility for non-CFP4 conferences and institutions.

Executive Order Considerations

We recognize the potential merit in President Trump's proposed executive order to establish national NIL standards. That said, we urge the administration to:

- Coordinate with stakeholders to avoid unintended legal and operational conflicts.
- Avoid policies that disproportionately benefit CFP-aligned institutions at the expense of student-athletes at less financially-resourced athletic departments.
- Ensure the order is implementable and enforceable without unfunded mandates.

Congressman, we share your commitment to protecting the heart of college athletics - a true American institution. Institutions within The Big West are proud to offer meaningful educational and competitive experiences to student-athletes. But without financial safeguards, structural flexibility, and inclusive policymaking, reforms like the SCORE Act may unintentionally harm the very programs they seek to protect.

You are absolutely right to question whether current NCAA leadership is meeting the moment — but the solution cannot be replacing one form of overreach with another. The vast majority of us are committed to the mission of college sports — we simply need the flexibility and financial tools to serve our NCAA Division I student-athletes without being forced to operate under rules built for the CFP4.

Congressman, thank you again for your leadership. The recommendations in this memo represent practical paths forward that preserve opportunity, protect competitive access, and reflect the diverse financial realities of today's collegiate landscape. I look forward to partnering with you on a policy path that ensures opportunity, equity, and sustainability for every institution and athletic program — not just the most visible ones. I appreciate the opportunity to share this perspective and look forward to working together on a sustainable solution.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Butterly
Commissioner

Kristi Giddings
Deputy Commissioner/SWA

Recommended Policy Alternatives to Preserve Opportunity and Competitive Balance

To ensure that reforms protect student-athlete opportunity and do not unintentionally harm non-revenue sports, we respectfully recommend the following legislative adjustments:

1. Advisory Body for Competitive Equity
Create a temporary federal advisory board (with conference and institutional representation) to study the impact of settlement implementation on non-CFP4 institutions and recommend adjustments based on financial data.
2. National NIL Clearinghouse
Establish a centralized federal registry or clearinghouse for NIL deals to ensure transparency, reduce abuse, and minimize administrative burden on institutions.
3. Earmark for Broad-Based Athletic Participation
Require that a portion of any mandated revenue-sharing or NIL resources be directed to support Olympic sports, women's programs, and Title IX compliance.
4. Revenue-Sharing Implementation Guardrails
Include a sustainability clause or phased implementation timeline for institutions outside the CFP4 to prevent disproportionate financial strain.
5. Flexible Sport Sponsorship Thresholds
Replace the 16-sport minimum with a model that allows for institutional discretion based on available resources, enrollment size, and/or proportionality under Title IX.



July 22, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Jordan, and Walberg:

We write to express deep concern that the *Student Compensation and Opportunity Through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act* as written fails to include any explicit protections or considerations for women college athletes—a glaring omission. Most notably, the bill does not reference Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the landmark civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded educational programs, including athletics and athletic financial compensation. This omission is especially troubling at a time when women's sports are growing at historic rates and rapidly ascending in today's culture in terms of popularity, consumption, and overall importance. Amidst this progress, women athletes face increasing legal uncertainty about how Title IX applies to name, image, and likeness (NIL) compensation and women's sports continue to be under-distributed and under-monetized in today's media ecosystem.¹ It is imperative that Congress acts to affirm and clarify that institutions that are recipients of federal aid must continue to provide Title IX protections to women athletes for all forms of financial assistance. We strongly urge you to amend the *SCORE Act* to explicitly protect women athletes, reinforce Title IX's authority and application to NIL compensation, and provide clear statutory guidance in light of recent court decisions, including *House, Hubbard, and Carter v. NCAA*.²

¹ Green, T. (2025, June 14). *Why female athletes are challenging the NCAA's \$2.8bn settlement*. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/jun/14/ncaa-nil-settlement-title-ix-explained>

Women college athletes have been consistently shortchanged in the rapidly growing NIL economy, and that disparity is heightened for Black women.³ The recent rollout of NIL-related settlements has only deepened the inequity, with women athletes expected to receive less than 10% of the total payout. Most colleges have indicated they plan to use the same thresholds outlined in the settlement when creating future revenue-sharing models—setting the stage for women college athletes to face a significant pay gap. This isn’t just unfair. It may violate federal law as multiple women college athletes are appealing the settlement challenging that it violates Title IX.⁴ Research shows women college athletes receive significantly fewer opportunities and far less compensation than their male peers. At six major universities that were analyzed, male basketball players earned a median NIL payment of \$1,000 from third-party NIL collectives, while women earned just \$150. Men also secured four times as many high-value deals worth at least \$1,000.⁵ Now, as of July 1, institutions have the authority to provide such financial assistance. Despite women’s rising visibility and performance on the national stage, these disparities not only persist, they are worsening. Without strong, intentional protections, the *SCORE Act* risks cementing these inequities into law. By failing to even mention Title IX, the bill forfeits a vital opportunity to close these gaps, modernize enforcement, and guarantee women athletes a fair shot in the new NIL landscape.

To meaningfully address these concerns and ensure women college athletes are not left behind, we urge you to consider adding the following critical provisions into the *SCORE Act*:

- Affirm that Title IX protections fully apply to NIL revenue sharing framework established under the Act;
- Clarify guidance from *House v. NCAA* to ensure women athletes receive an equitable share of any compensation or settlements;
- Close loopholes that undermine gender equity in athletics, including those that reduce women’s roster spots, scholarships, or competitive opportunities;
- Mandate that collectives and third-party entities offering NIL deals and operating on behalf of their institutions provide equal access and opportunity to women athletes;

² Conniff, C. P., Abunaw, G., & Wheeler, T. (2025, June 20). *House v. NCAA settlement approved: Era of direct payments to college athletes begins*. Ropes & Gray. Retrieved from <https://www.ropesgray.com/en/insights/alerts/2025/06/house-v-ncaa-settlement-approved-era-of-direct-payments-to-college-athletes-begins>

³ Blakely, S. (2022, March 4). *The discrepancy and inequity that comes with being a talented Black female athlete*. EBONY. Retrieved July 17, 2025, from <https://www.ebony.com/the-discrepancy-and-inequity-that-comes-with-being-a-talented-black-female-athlete/>

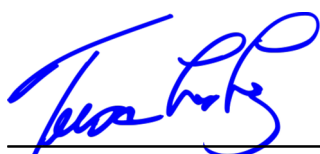
⁴ Nuckols, B. (2025, June 11). *Female athletes appeal landmark NCAA settlement, saying it violates federal antidiscrimination law*. AP News. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/article/ncaa-house-settlement-appeal-female-athletes-e2864d7bcd74d0c538c1f2e6c98fe6c>

⁵ Samaha, A., & Giambalvo, E. (2024, October 21). As women’s hoops booms, NIL boosters favor men, records show. The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2024/10/21/college-basketball-basketball-nil-men-women/>

- Require robust transparency and reporting, including public disclosure of universities' NIL revenues, expenditures, and deal distribution by gender, to make inequities visible and enforceable.

These reforms are not just technical improvements—they are essential to ensuring that the federal NIL framework upholds fairness, protects progress, and reflects the reality that women athletes are not an afterthought in college sports, but rather the future of college sports. Thank you for your consideration of these provisions. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the *SCORE Act* includes meaningful protections for women collegiate athletes.

Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



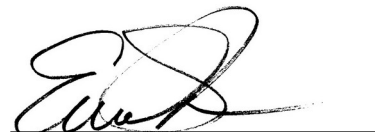
Sydney Kamlager Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus




Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



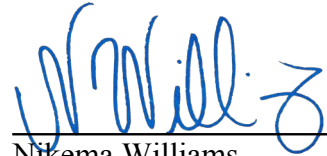
JM Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



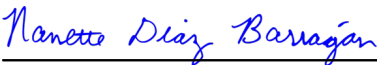
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



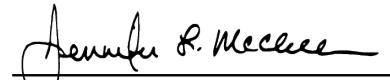
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



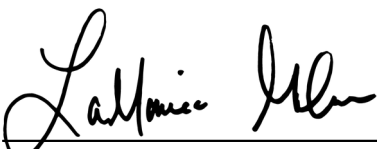
Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



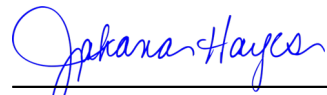
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten
Vice Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

Kelly Morrison
Co-Chair & Liaison
Reproductive Health Care Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Congressional Asian Pacific American
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

This letter is endorsed by:

Women's National Basketball Players Association
National Women's Soccer League Players Association
Athletes Unlimited
National Women's Law Center
Women's Sports Foundation
The Drake Group
Sports Fans Coalition



July 22, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As Attorneys General responsible for protecting our citizens from exploitation by monopolies, we write in strong opposition to the SCORE Act. The SCORE Act is a misguided effort that will enshrine in federal law the arbitrary and biased authority of the NCAA at its worst.

We agree with the authors of the Act that, despite progress, the NCAA and its members have yet to fully ensure fair treatment for student-athletes. That is why several of us recently sued to challenge anticompetitive NCAA rules prohibiting student-athletes from discussing Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) compensation during the recruiting process, and why we insisted on and obtained a strong permanent injunction that reforms how student-athletes may vie for and earn NIL compensation. Beneficial federal legislation often stems from such successful litigation, and so we

welcome congressional action that builds on court victories for student-athletes to resolve the continuing inequities in college sports. The SCORE Act, however, will not redress the persistent power imbalance between the NCAA and student-athletes. To the contrary, it risks enshrining in federal law the same lack of accountability—to antitrust laws, to the States, and to student-athletes themselves—that the Supreme Court and numerous lower federal courts have found to be indefensible.

Simply put, the SCORE Act consolidates too much power in the hands of the NCAA. The NCAA is a cartel that has consistently abused its monopolistic control even in the absence of a legislative blank check to do so. The Founders of our great nation recognized that the concentration of power inevitably corrupts and that only a system constrained by checks and balances and accountable to the people can endure over time. By eliminating any serious checks on NCAA authority, we expect the SCORE Act will ultimately deliver arbitrary and unaccountable enforcement by an NCAA fully empowered to be more overbearing than it has ever been before.

Antitrust enforcement and State legislation have compelled a paradigm shift in college sports. The NCAA has spent decades using its monopolistic power to impose harsh punishments for minor infractions, ignore major infractions, and rake in billions and billions of dollars on the backs of indentured student-athletes while suppressing their opportunities to share in the wealth. The organization has demonstrated time and again that it will not reform unless forced by external powers. In *National Collegiate Athletic Association v. Alston*, the Supreme Court unanimously concluded that the NCAA is a monopolist that illegally used its power to artificially cap the compensation college athletes may receive.¹ The Court explicitly rejected the NCAA’s claim to special immunity, making clear that “the NCAA is not above the law.”²

Through litigation, student-athletes, States, and courts have begun to restore balance to a system long skewed in favor of the monopolist. Over the last decade, courts have held that the NCAA’s athletic-scholarship restrictions, its limitation on education-related benefits, and its ban on the use of NIL-compensation during the recruiting process violated antitrust laws.³ The States and student-athletes have also forced major reforms through settlements in antitrust litigation with the NCAA,⁴ as well as through State legislation.

The SCORE Act would reverse this progress and grant the NCAA what the courts have explicitly denied: complete control over college sports, including student-athlete compensation. There may well be a role for federal legislation that standardizes the reforms and progress student-athletes

¹ *Nat’l Collegiate Athlet. Ass’n v. Alston*, 594 U.S. 69 (2021)

² *Id.* at 112 (Kavanaugh, J., concurring).

³ See, e.g., *O’Bannon v. Nat’l Collegiate Athlet. Ass’n*, 802 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2015) (affirming that NCAA compensation rules that prohibited schools from offering athletic scholarships equal to the full cost-of-attendance violated antitrust law); *Alston*, 594 U.S. 69 (2021) (affirming that the NCAA’s restrictions on education-related benefits violated antitrust law); *Tennessee v. Nat’l Collegiate Athlet. Ass’n*, 718 F.Supp.3d 756 (E.D. Tenn., 2024) (enjoining the NCAA’s rule banning the use of NIL compensation during the recruiting process).

⁴ See, e.g., *Ohio v. Nat’l Collegiate Athlet. Ass’n*, 706 F.Supp.3d 583 (N.D. W.V., Dec. 13, 2023) (enjoining the NCAA’s “Transfer Eligibility Rule”).

and the States have achieved. But the SCORE Act goes irresponsibly beyond this—it rewards the NCAA’s bad behavior by (i) creating a broad antitrust exemption that immunizes the NCAA from future legal accountability, (ii) preempting state law, and (iii) codifying NCAA hegemony over student-athletes and college sports.

Among other things, the SCORE Act attempts to shield the NCAA from accountability by precluding States from challenging how its new College Sports Commission determines what constitutes acceptable third-party NIL payments under the vague “fair market value” and “valid business purpose” standards in the new third-party NIL compensation system.⁵ Foreclosing such challenges would nullify an essential term of the court-approved settlement that several of us negotiated with the NCAA just a few months ago. That is especially troubling given the initial actions of the Commission. Just one month after court approval of the *House v. NCAA* settlement, the Commission issued guidance that would prohibit nearly all NIL deals with “NIL Collectives.” The guidance concluded that collectives—the entities that currently provide almost 82% of all NIL compensation to student-athletes—cannot have a “valid business purpose” and thus are barred from compensating student-athletes for use of their NIL.⁶ This latest attempt to deny college athletes their actual market value—arguably in violation of the *House* settlement’s terms—proves that college sports leaders have failed to evolve.

In addition to statutorily blessing the NCAA’s monopolistic abuses and anticompetitive behavior, the SCORE Act would federalize the NCAA’s private, non-transparent rulemaking process, giving legal imprimatur to rules drafted in the shadows by stakeholders whose primary interest is preserving control. This would freeze in place a governance structure that does not work; it has historically produced irrational policies such as the nutrition restrictions that left college athletes starving⁷ and a notoriously ticky-tack enforcement regime.⁸ Worse, the NCAA could continue modifying these rules behind closed doors,⁹ now backed by federal preemption and beyond the reach of state reform or meaningful judicial review. The Act would subject student-athletes, schools, and even state legislatures to a rigid, top-down framework administered by an unaccountable private cartel.

With the SCORE Act, Congress would send a dangerous message: that an entrenched private actor, when challenged in courts or by the States, may seek legislative rescue and insulation from accountability. This would chisel ruinous policy into the bedrock of American law at the expense of

⁵ Some signatory states have bargained for the ability to challenge those vague standards as part of valid court orders. See *Tennessee, et al. v. Nat’l Collegiate Athet. Ass’n*, No. 3:24-cv-00033, ECF No. 92, ¶¶26e, 29, 32 (E.D. Tenn., March 21, 2025) (Consent Judgment and Permanent Injunction).

⁶ See Eddie Pells, *Argument Over ‘Valid Business Purpose’ for NIL Collectives Threatens College Sports Settlement*, Associated Press: Sports (July 15, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/nil-ncaa-house-settlement-6c743730c9c3ddcc3f4e787995ddd9e5>.

⁷ See Steve Eder, *Some Dietitians Say College Athletes are Underfed*, NEW YORK TIMES (OCT. 26, 2012), <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/26/sports/ncaafootball/dietitians-press-ncaa-to-allow-more-meals-for-athletes.html>

⁸ See, e.g., Eamonn Brennan, *NCAA’s Indiana Suspension Just Plain Silly*, ESPN: COLLEGE BASKETBALL BLOG (Nov. 7, 2012), https://www.espn.com/blog/collegebasketballnation/post/_/id/66502/ncaas-indiana-suspensions-just-plain-silly

⁹ The *House* settlement permits the NCAA and Power Conferences to impose additional “anti-circumvention” rules that may be used to deny college athletes compensation. See *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, No. 4:20-cv-03919, ECF 980 at pp. 27 (N.D. Cal., June 6, 2025) (order granting final settlement approval).

student-athletes, institutions of higher education, fans, and States. An antitrust exemption with no accountability is a recipe for disaster. If you decide the NCAA will not be accountable to market forces, the well-being of student-athletes depends on the Association's ongoing accountability to the courts and the States.

The NCAA has already had its day in court—and lost. The Supreme Court reminded the NCAA in *Alston* that it was not above the law. Lower federal courts have done the same, both before and after *Alston*. Yet now the NCAA asks Congress to rid it of the very mechanisms of accountability that ushered in progress and forced it, grudgingly, to reform: antitrust enforcement and State law. The SCORE Act deals a get-out-of-jail-free card to an undeserving NCAA, and we urge you to reject it.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Skrmetti
Tennessee Attorney General



Brian Schwalb
District of Columbia Attorney General



James Uthmeier
Florida Attorney General



Letitia James
New York Attorney General



Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

July 14, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chair, House Education & Workforce Committee
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member, House Education & Workforce Committee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: The SCORE Act's antitrust exemption undermines the very rights the bill purports to protect.

Chair Guthrie, Chair Jordan, Chair Walberg, Ranking Member Pallone, Ranking Member Raskin, and Ranking Member Scott,

The undersigned organizations are committed to promoting competition, especially in labor markets where college athletes have only recently been granted legal rights. We write to express our unequivocal opposition to the antitrust exemption contained in the proposed Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act.

We have serious concerns that the bill's antitrust exemption, which would apply to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and anyone else claiming "compliance" with its provisions, would completely undermine any benefits that the legislation purports to provide college athletes. In the interest of preserving competition, the rights and welfare of college athletes, and intercollegiate sports, we urge you to vote "NO" on the SCORE Act and reject any other proposed legislation that includes an antitrust exemption.

A statutory exemption from liability under antitrust law would shield the NCAA and member schools from liability for colluding on rules for college athlete compensation (including for "name, image, and likeness (NIL)"), recruitment, transfers, and other policies governing intercollegiate sports. It might also give immunity to advertisers to set rates for college athletes' NIL deals in the name of complying with the bill's NIL restrictions. An antitrust exemption would "green-light" this harmful conduct and suppress competition, to the detriment of college athletes, without legal accountability.

We emphasize that antitrust law exists to prevent exactly this kind of harmful collusion. As Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote, "Nowhere else in America can businesses get away with agreeing not to pay their workers a fair market rate... The NCAA is not above the law."¹ Exempting the NCAA from antitrust liability would place this powerful cartel above the law.

If the NCAA cannot function without government-granted immunity from the antitrust laws, that should be a red flag for lawmakers. The harmful anticompetitive outcomes that would result from antitrust immunity are not a hypothetical concern. They are precisely what the NCAA has accomplished in the past under the guise of "amateurism," until courts intervened to grant college athletes their rights. An exemption would reverse this important progress and permanently slam shut the courthouse doors, giving the NCAA a blank check to engage in anticompetitive abuses while profiting handsomely.

The SCORE Act's antitrust exemption provision goes well beyond "leveling the playing field." Rather, it would entrench the NCAA's dominance and roll-back or suppress the rights of college athletes. The bill would undo or undermine recent legal victories achieved by college athletes, from the Supreme Court's *Alston* decision in 2021 that unanimously struck down NCAA limits on education-related benefits, to the Third Circuit's ruling in *Johnson v. NCAA*, and the DOJ's transfer rules. Indeed, Justice Kavanaugh's concurrence in *Alston* explicitly cautioned that the NCAA's remaining restrictions on athlete compensation raise "serious questions under the antitrust laws."

The NCAA's response has been not to reform, but to run to Congress for a bailout in the form of antitrust immunity. We urge Congress to resist this tactic. Opposing the SCORE Act's antitrust exemption is not a partisan issue. It is a principled stance that aligns with the importance of market competition and core American values, shared across the political spectrum. The SCORE Act would reverse the vital progress achieved by college athletes in numerous cases by

¹ *Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Alston*, 594 U.S. 69, 112 (2021), https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-512_new_7mi8.pdf.

giving the NCAA immunity from antitrust law. Congress should not protect conduct that has already been found to violate federal law.

We strongly urge you to reject the SCORE Act in its current form and ensure that no legislation is advanced that includes any antitrust exemption for the NCAA.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Hess
Executive Director, Sports Fans Coalition

Diana Moss
Vice President and Director of Competition Policy, Progressive Policy Institute

Jason Stahl
Executive Director of the College Football Players Association,

Sandeep Vaheesan
Legal Director, Open Markets Institute

Cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Judiciary Committee, and House Education and Workforce Committee



July 14, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Members of the Committee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone and Members of the Committee:

We are the AFL-CIO Sports Council—eight players associations representing professional athletes across major professional sports in the United States. We write in strong opposition to the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act of 2025 (H.R. 4312), which is scheduled for subcommittee markup this week. Just as we stand up for our members, protecting them against predatory contracts, we would likewise advise our nation's college athletes to steer clear of the deal that the SCORE Act offers. It is a bad deal for athletes.

Understandably, proponents of the SCORE Act want to emphasize what the bill purports to offer athletes, but a closer look at the bill shows the catch—that is, what it takes away from athletes. We want you to be aware of four significant problems with this bill.

First, the SCORE Act's antitrust exemption gives the NCAA and its members the power to collude against their athletes with no recourse available to those athletes. It is not hard to imagine a situation in which the NCAA and its members work together to restrict athletes' rights, reduce revenue sharing and deny athletes fair compensation because the NCAA and its members would enjoy immunity from legal action. This is exactly what the NCAA and its members have been doing for decades. This provision is a blank check to the NCAA that Congress would be writing—paid for by college athletes.

Second, what the bill gives with one hand, it immediately removes with the other. Under the bill, an institution or conference may not restrict an athlete's ability to enter into a name, image or likeness (NIL) agreement (which college athletes already have the right to do), with several exceptions. One exception is if the athlete's agreement conflicts with an agreement made by the institution or conference. That exception is so wide that it swallows the athlete's rights entirely, putting the institution or conference in total control. An institution or conference could enter into an agreement with a particular sponsor or set of sponsors such that, if its athletes tried to make their own agreements with any other sponsors, they would be prohibited from doing so. And the athletes' own bargaining power with permitted sponsors would be tremendously depleted.

This provision empowers institutions and conferences over athletes when it comes to the athletes' own names, images and likenesses. In those instances when an athlete might still make their own NIL agreement, the SCORE Act fails to protect college athletes from commercial exploitation.

In the college sports landscape, there is an increasing number of bad actors peddling predatory marketing or brand agreements that provide for compensation from the athlete's future on- or off-field earnings. Many young athletes do not fully understand the real financial costs or consequences of these agreements. The bill should protect college athletes in such situations by establishing a term limit on these marketing and brand agreements that is tethered to an athlete's college eligibility. Imposing registration and disclosure requirements upon agents is not enough. The SCORE Act must do more to safeguard college athletes' NIL earnings.

Third, the SCORE Act sets a ceiling on athletes' rights and protections by preempting state law in this area. A federal law would automatically set a floor for everyone, but the concern of the SCORE Act seems to be about making sure athletes can achieve nothing more than what the bill contains. If a state wanted to provide its college athletes with any better rights or protections, the SCORE Act would prohibit such improvements. State law preemption will harm athletes.

Fourth, the SCORE Act contains a broad ban on employee status for college athletes. On its face, this provision disempowers college athletes and prevents them from seeking to join together and bargaining over issues important to them. Once a person is deemed to not be an employee, as the SCORE Act would do, they lose all of the rights that could be associated with employment, including the right to organize a union and collectively bargain. Precisely because the level of exploitation of college athletes has increased in recent decades, courts could no longer ignore the clear economic reality that some institutions have been treating athletes as employees rather than students. In light of this economic reality, athletes have insisted that their rights should be respected. Current law is a simple proposition: If you do not want your athletes deemed employees, do not treat them like employees. In that fashion, labor and employment law has become an important backstop protection for college athletes. But the SCORE Act would remove that backstop. It says that no matter how an institution or conference treats an athlete, the athlete will never be considered an employee. While the bill affords college athletes a few discrete benefits, its ban on employee status opens the door wide to new levels of exploitation that would swamp those benefits. In fact, per the SCORE Act, a college could make something they might call "school service" a condition of participation on a sports team and thereby turn some of its athletes into a pool of free labor, using them to replace all sorts of otherwise paid work—from jobs in dining halls to roles in custodial and groundskeeping services. It should be noted that several important university decision-makers now recognize collective bargaining as an appropriate and necessary fix for the so-called problems now faced by the schools and conferences regarding NIL regulation.^{1 2}

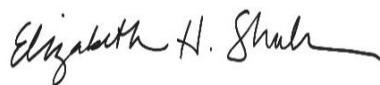
¹ [Could collective bargaining be the answer for college sports?](#)

² [Collective bargaining in college sports: Is it a third rail or an inevitability?](#)

The AFL-CIO and its Sports Council affiliates unanimously oppose the SCORE Act. College athletes expend immense effort, endure rigorous schedules and risk bodily injury daily for their schools. These efforts generate both monetary and nonmonetary benefits, often substantial, for the athletes' institutions. After decades of seeing the NCAA monopolize these benefits and provide little in return to the athletes, the courts have affirmed the freedom of athletes to exercise the same rights that other Americans enjoy, including the right to monetize the use of their images. The SCORE Act is a brazen attempt to take away that freedom. The NCAA does not deserve an antitrust exemption. Colleges and universities should not be allowed to block athletes from monetizing their image rights. States should not be prevented from protecting their student athletes. And college athletes should not be denied the rights enjoyed by other workers, including their fellow students.

We urge you to read this bill in totality for what is purposely included and what is purposefully left out. This is not a deal any college athlete should sign. We urge you to reject the SCORE Act.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Shuler
President

EHS/IG/ksb

The AFL-CIO Sports Council includes:

Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA)
Major League Soccer Players Association (MLSPA)
NFL Players Association (NFLPA)
NWSL Players Association (NWSLPA)
United Soccer League Players Association (USLPA-CWA)
Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA)
National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA)
Professional Hockey Players' Association (PHPA)



Bryan Kohberger's sentencing hearing for Idaho student murders is underway. Watch CNN

Prison documents reveal Jeffrey Epstein tried to reach out to Larry Nassar, gymnastics coach convicted of sexual abuse

By [Alaa Elassar](#), CNN

🕒 5 min read · Updated 8:18 PM EDT, Fri June 2, 2023



Jeffrey Epstein appears in court in West Palm Beach, Florida, July 30, 2008. Uma Sanghvi/The Palm Beach Post/AP

The Associated Press first reported the discovery, which was found in the midst of over 4,000 pages of documents the news agency obtained nearly four years after Epstein, who was accused of child sex trafficking, died of an apparent suicide in a New York City jail cell while awaiting trial. The new documents offer additional insight into what documents previously released by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in 2021 revealed about Epstein's suicide.

The documents were acquired from the BOP under the Freedom of Information Act and shed light on Epstein's death and his behavior during his 36 days at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), including his attempt to connect with Nassar, according to the AP.

An investigator discovered Epstein's letter to Nassar in the jail mail room weeks after Epstein was found dead, according to the documents. The letter was not part of the documents obtained by either the AP or CNN, but the documents reference that the letter was returned to the jail in September 2019, weeks after Epstein's death.

"It appeared he mailed it out and it was returned back to him," the investigator told a prison official in an email included in the documents. "I am not sure if I should open it or should we hand it over to anyone?"



RELATED ARTICLE

3 alleged victims are mentioned in the indictment against Jeffrey Epstein. There are dozens more

The copy of the email exchange obtained by CNN is redacted and does not reference Nassar by name. But in their reply, an MCC staff attorney described the original addressee of Epstein's letter as "the former doctor for the U.S. Female Gymnastics Team that was convicted of molesting a bunch of girls...under the guise of "medical procedures/examinations." The attorney added, "some of the victim accounts are pretty horrific."

It is unclear if the two men had any relationship.

The State Appellate Defender Office "is not aware of any relationship between Mr. Nassar and Jeffrey Epstein," Jonathan Sacks, director of the State Appellate Defender Office where Nassar's court-appointed attorney, Jacqueline McCann, works, told CNN.

The office also said it had no knowledge of the letter or Epstein's attempt to contact Nassar.

Nassar, the longtime doctor for the USA gymnastics team and Michigan State University, is serving a 60-year sentence in federal prison on child pornography charges. He also was sentenced in 2018 to a 40-to-175 year state prison sentence in Michigan after pleading guilty to seven counts of criminal sexual conduct.

More than 150 women and girls – including Olympic gold medalists Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney – publicly told a court he sexually abused them. USA Gymnastics, the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee and their insurers agreed to pay \$380 million in a settlement with Nassar's victims.

Epstein was charged in 2019 with having operated a sex trafficking ring in which he sexually abused dozens of underage girls – allegations that had circulated around the politically connected businessman for years.

According to the criminal indictment, between 2002 and 2005, Epstein ran a trafficking enterprise in which he paid hundreds of dollars in cash to girls as young as 14 to have sex with him at his Upper East Side home and his estate in Palm Beach. He worked with employees and associates, according to the indictment, to lure the girls to his residences and paid some of his victims to recruit other girls for him to abuse.

Epstein's attorneys did not respond to CNN's request for comment on the letter.

Procedural mistakes by BOP staffers prior to Epstein's death

The release of the documents provides new perspectives on the obscure circumstances surrounding Epstein's time in jail, his last days alive and his suicide.

They include “a detailed psychological reconstruction of the events leading to Epstein's suicide, as well as his health history, internal agency reports, emails, memos and other records,” according to the AP.

The new documents offer additional insight to what previously released documents from the BOP revealed about Epstein's suicide, including his denial that he had suicidal thoughts, despite some prison staffers noting signs of troubling behavior.

When Epstein arrived at the MCC on July 6, 2019, according to previously released BOP documents, a facilities assistant is noted in a report as describing Epstein as “distraught, sad, and a little confused.” The assistant said in the report Epstein told her he was OK, but she was not convinced of this, writing that “he seemed stressed and withdrawn.” She added in a report

not convinced of this, writing that he seems dazed and withdrawn. She advised in an email that a psychologist come and talk with him to “just be on the safe side and prevent any suicidal thoughts,” but there is no evidence the email recipient, a lieutenant, contacted the on-call psychologist at the time, according to the report in the previously released BOP documents.



RELATED ARTICLE

Jeffrey Epstein denied having any suicidal thoughts and prison staffers made litany of errors prior to his death, prison documents reveal

After a court proceeding on July 8, according to a BOP Psychological Reconstruction of Inmate Death report previously released, Epstein denied being suicidal but was placed on Psychological Observation – less restrictive than Suicide Watch – due to his risk factors. The next day, a BOP psychologist formally assessed Epstein’s risk for suicide and determined he should remain under observation “out of an abundance of caution.” On July 10, the BOP report says Epstein was taken off Psychological Observation.

In addition, BOP staff made a litany of procedural errors prior to the convicted pedophile and wealthy financier’s death on August 10, 2019.

Prison guards failed to check on Epstein for several hours the night of his death by suicide, but the BOP report further notes several additional errors made by BOP staff in the time prior to his death, including inaccuracies on his screening forms.

Furthermore, a review of prison records “revealed a number of incomplete entries” with regards to provisions and receipt of basic services such as recreation, medical records, showers, and meal consumption, according to the previously released BOP documents.

The BOP report states that there were several instances where it wasn’t clear if Epstein ate, took a shower or was offered recreation.

The BOP report also states that the day before his death, Epstein terminated his legal visit early to place a phone call. He told BOP staffers he was calling his mother, but records show she has been dead since at least 2004.

CNN’s Nicki Brown, Laura Ly and Brynn Gingras contributed to this report.

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