

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Full Committee Markup
July 23, 2025

As prepared for delivery

Thank you all for being here today as we consider two important, bipartisan bills. First, we will continue our work to strengthen college athletics and the NIL environment for our student-athletes through the SCORE Act. I especially want to thank Chairman Bilirakis and Congressman Fry for their hard work getting us to this full committee markup today. I also want to thank Representatives Bynum and Figures for working across the aisle with us to improve this bill and find common ground.

Complex legal, operational, and policy questions have left student-athletes—and the universities they represent—on unstable ground, and student-athletes, programs, and conferences have all told us that a clear, national standard would strengthen this uniquely American institution.

Following the critical House settlement last month, it's clear this is the moment to act and support the new era of college athletics. But our work at three House Committees, culminating in the SCORE Act, didn't start last month. Since the beginning of this Congress, we have worked in a bipartisan way to develop a framework that codifies new NIL, health, and academic protections for players and provides stability for universities.

In March, we held both a bipartisan roundtable and a subcommittee hearing with witnesses representing players, coaches, and athletic directors.

Over a month and a half ago, we shared draft bill text with my friends across the aisle in search of common ground and compromise, and in June, we publicly released a discussion draft while continuing good faith negotiations.

Earlier this month, we negotiated a bipartisan deal and introduced the SCORE Act, and over the past week we have continued to work to find a compromise that would garner support from Democrat Members of this Committee.

In response to these conversations, we made edits to improve student-athlete representation in decision-making processes, narrowed preemption, clarified and narrowed the antitrust language, and added additional enforcement mechanisms.

This has been a long and open process, which we have approached with an open mind, and I remain hopeful that we will be able to continue growing this coalition and building more support for this commonsense bill, but we cannot delay.

Without this bill, student-athletes will be left to fend for themselves against bad actors, non-revenue generating sports could face devastating cuts, and legal uncertainty will continue to hang over college sports.

The SCORE Act delivers exactly what is needed: student-athlete benefits, stability, and transparency.

Today we are also considering H.R. 4273, the Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments, otherwise known as “OMUFA” *[oh-MOO-fuh]*, led by Representatives Latta and DeGette. This is the first reauthorization of OMUFA, and I look forward to continuing our bipartisan work to get this bill across the finish line by the September 30th expiration.

As our FDA witness stated last week, without a timely reauthorization, certain FDA actions could be delayed by a decade or longer.

I appreciate all the work that’s gone into this bill and will continue to engage with stakeholders and our Senate colleagues to work towards commonsense solutions that support innovation and ensure patients have access to safe and effective products.