



Dear Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers,

Please see my responses below to the follow-up questions from our recent hearing on Name, Image and Likeness.

The Honorable Debbie Lesko

ESPN has given trans-identifying, male swimmer Lia Thomas recognition for Women's History Month. I am concerned that this foreshadows how NIL could be used to undermine female athletes in contracts. Not only is its fundamental discrimination against women athletes to force them to compete against men in their own sport, but it has a direct impact on parity in representation of female athletes for NIL deals. Partnership with Thomas, for instance, could be recognized as a contract with a female athlete.

1. Do you believe that biological male college athletes identifying as women should be rostered and able to compete on women's teams? Why or why not?

I believe that transgendered athletes should engage in and enjoy college athletics. I also believe that the continued conversation on the best way for transgendered to be involved in college athletics should involve members of the transgendered community.

2. Do you believe that NIL contracts going to biological male athletes identifying as women should be categorized as NIL contracts in women's sports? Why or why not?

I am not sure that I understand the question. If it becomes important to categorize NIL contracts based on race, gender, age or any other demographic to highlight any unfairness or discrimination, I would support an appropriate designation for transgendered athletes.

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong

1. Mr. Abdullah, your testimony states, "Although individual states have opened doors for these athletes to explore the market, the laws need to be consistent with uniform guidelines to regulate, enforce, and support the interest of the student-athletes."

a) Have you noticed any Virginia NIL laws that have given your school's student-athletes an advantage or disadvantage compared to other schools competing in the same conference but from another state?

I have not noticed any difference.



2. What suggestions do you have to address the transfer portal? How can we ensure that the transfer portal is used for more traditional reasons and not the promise of a NIL deal?

As NIL is now an important part of college athletics and the transfer portal, it may be best to embrace the transfer portals role in NIL. It may be a way to facilitate transparency in NIL.

The Honorable Russ Fulcher

1. In your testimony you talk about the fact that most of the student athletes in your conference are first-generation college students. Can you talk about the importance of education and the mission of HBCU's, especially as it relates to protecting these student athletes from agents who don't have the best interest of the athlete in mind?

I believe that HBCUs are national treasures that have consistently given young men and women access to the middle class through the economic mobility that higher education provides. It is important that we provide a quality education, particularly on financial literacy, to protect athletes at HBCUs and all other institutions. We have to make sure that athletes are not taken advantage of by predatory individuals or businesses.

2. Can you talk about how the lack of a national standard, which makes it more difficult for athletes to assess or bargain for their true value, and can lead to being exploited? How would

a national standard for NIL empowers and protect student athletes? I am thinking of the "pros" and "cons" for a national standard, including things we should consider?

If athletes are unaware of how current or previous athletes have been compensated for similar services, it makes it more difficult for them to assess their value. A national standard that encourages transparency would help athletes' level the playing field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form the name 'Makola Abdullah'.

Makola Abdullah, Ph.D.
President