

**HEARING BEFORE THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE:  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA & COMMERCE**

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ONE PAGE SUMMARY  
of the Written Testimony of Charlie Baker  
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College athletics are a uniquely beloved institution in the United States. They provide a way for young adults to chase their athletic dreams while simultaneously achieving a college education. Importantly, college sports fund \$3.8 billion in annual scholarships, and serve as the premier stage for women's sports, support the local economies and bring communities together every single day. These opportunities that only college sports can provide are at risk and the NCAA's ability to provide those experiences is under attack.

The NCAA is committed to continuing to enhance student-athlete welfare and academic success. In the last year, the NCAA has taken numerous steps to modernize our model by passing new bylaws mandating schools provide significant [health coverage](#), [mental health services](#) and academic protections including [guaranteed scholarships](#). The NCAA also passed [new bylaws](#) just last week to clarify and safeguard how student-athletes can profit from their name, image, and likeness. In addition to working to achieve [greater opportunities and exposure](#) for women's sports, the Division I Council has recently [been tasked](#) with developing a framework to address enhanced educational benefits, allow for schools to enter into direct NIL licensing with student-athletes, and create a new subdivision for higher-resourced schools to provide additional financial support in compliance with Title IX.

While the NCAA is making changes to improve outcomes for student-athletes across all three divisions, there are significant issues outside our control we believe Congress can address. Mounting threats from outside entities could change nearly every aspect of colleges sports, without the input from student-athlete leadership and in direct opposition from educational institutions serving the historically underserved. I and the NCAA share the opinions of student-athlete leaders from every division and dozens of conferences across the country that college sports must be safeguarded from these outside efforts to do just that, to strengthen future opportunities for student-athletes across gender, division and sport, and to ensure that millions of your constituents benefit from college athletics. *Student-athlete leadership and the NCAA is eager to partner with Congress to 1) Improve NIL Outcomes for Student-Athletes, 2) Address Student-Athlete Well-Being, 3) Protect Opportunities for all Student-Athletes and the Olympic Pipeline, and 4) Bolster and Protect Title IX.*

The Association applauds Chairman Bilirakis' efforts to support student-athletes and create a level-playing field by preempting state NIL laws and proposing important protections for college athletes. Importantly, this proposal addresses the critical issues of student-athlete employment and ongoing, unsustainable litigation by our conferences and schools. Additionally, we believe schools, conferences, and the NCAA, as opposed to a federalized structure is best positioned to govern colleges sports. As a former elected official, I understand the need for some level of public accountability but also share the concern of many with inserting government too deeply into activities such as sports. I am confident all parties involved can reach a compromise where the promise of college of athletics is advanced while the schools and leagues retain the ability to effectively govern college sports. I am excited to fully address the issues college sports face in partnership with lawmakers.