

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

**The Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Hearing entitled:  
“NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes' Dealmaking Rights.”**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

**Testimony Summary of Jeff Jackson, Commissioner, Missouri Valley Conference**

The Missouri Valley Conference is comprised of twelve institutions and sponsors championships in 17 sports, serving over 5,000 student-athletes. The Valley is dedicated to supporting all aspects of the student-athlete experience, including academics, health and wellness, and life skills. Name, image, and likeness activities are an important aspect of the student-athlete experience. I would like to highlight the following from my testimony, specifically:

- The FAIR Act brings clarity, transparency, and necessary protections to the NIL landscape.
- Transparency is essential to ensuring that student-athletes receive fair compensation for their name, image, and likeness, and that they are promptly compensated as promised.
- NIL agreements must not be used as a recruiting inducement.
- The registration process protects student-athletes from being taken advantage of by bad actors.
- Preemption of state law as it relates to the regulation of the commercial use of a student-athlete's NIL provides clarity and will resolve the conflict resulting from the current patchwork legal environment.
- A de minimis threshold for registering and reporting ensures our student athletes are best positioned to maximize the opportunities available without running afoul of federal legislation.
- The FAIR Act properly recognizes the historic relationship between an academic institution and a student-athlete.