

## **Meredith Page- One Page Summary**

**01/18/2024 Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce**

### **“NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes’ Deal Making Rights”**

Chairman Bilirakis, Ranking Member Schakowsky, and distinguished members of the House Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, thank you for the opportunity to testify at this important hearing today.

My name is Meredith Page, and I am a junior on the women’s volleyball team at Radford University where I am currently studying business management. Becoming a student athlete in 2021, truly changed my life. I currently serve as the Radford University SAAC president, the Big South Conference SAAC Chair, and the Division One SAAC Big South Representative. Titles that bear great responsibility but also great honor.

I am incredibly grateful to the chairman for including protections against athlete employment status.

Division One SAAC is unified in your pursuit of these protections.

I urge to you to take action as the employment model causes grave concern for other athletes to have the ability to do the same thing I have. To grow, to prosper, and acquire an education. Scholarship or not, the character and career development gained by the student athlete experience is a privilege and one we see in abundance through leadership positions across the country.

The NCAA, excelling under Charlie Baker’s leadership, has taken great action to the protection of student athletes. Though the effectiveness is dimmed by a patch work of state laws. Having a national framework will allow for uniformity for every student-athlete to be protected to pursue their athletic careers under the same rules, regulations, and consequences. Where we can finally put the emphasis back on the education, not the paycheck. After all, when the integrity, fairness, and competitiveness of collegiate sports deviate, student-athletes are the ones impacted. I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you for your dedication to public service and your commitment to the betterment of college sports.

