

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and
Trade
July 15, 2025

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairman Bilirakis, for your leadership on the SCORE Act and to all of our colleagues who joined as original co-leads: Reps. Bynum, Figures, Walberg, Jordan, Fry, Fitzgerald, and McClain. Your commitment to bipartisan collaboration has been essential to crafting this thoughtful and comprehensive legislation.

H.R. 4312, the SCORE Act, is a bipartisan product of extensive collaboration across three House Committees: Energy & Commerce, Education & Workforce, and Judiciary. This legislation marks a significant step forward in providing a clear, federal framework for the Name, Image, and Likeness marketplace in college athletics.

College athletics have yielded Presidents, entrepreneurs, and community leaders, but the fractured NIL landscape that has developed in recent years has left athletes, schools, and conferences without certainty or guardrails. Across the country, athletic departments are trying to compete in a system that is anything but fair or stable, where chaos makes it difficult to understand, let alone meet, their compliance obligations.

The patchwork of state-level NIL laws, inconsistent policies, and continuous court challenges have created confusion and competitive imbalances across college sports.

Just last month, we saw a major milestone with the approval of the *House* settlement, signaling a new era in college athletics. The SCORE Act builds upon this momentum by delivering the protections, clarity, and uniformity that student-athletes, institutions, and fans have long been asking for.

Student-athletes get additional protections, universities get the stability they need to plan for the future, and fans can continue building relationships with the players they support. This legislation will ensure that the integrity of college sports is maintained by leveling the playing field and providing nationwide consistency.

The legislation guarantees that student-athletes receive essential benefits to support their education, health, and long-term success. It protects student-athletes from bad actor agents and allows for rules that stabilize college sports to be enforced.

With revenue-sharing as the new norm in college athletics, we must ensure *all* athletic programs – from powerhouse football teams to smaller sports – have the tools to thrive.

This legislation represents a balanced, bipartisan solution to one of the most pressing issues in college athletics. I am proud of our work and look forward to restoring college athletics for students, schools, and fans

I yield back.