

**Hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business**  
**“Athletes and Innovators: Analyzing NIL’s Impact on Entrepreneurial Collegiate Athletes”**

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Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. As one who has been engaged in collegiate athletics since 1988, as an athlete, and broadcaster, I’m honored to be with you to provide you my insights on Name, Image, and Likeness’ impact on entrepreneurial collegiate athletes.

Collegiate athletics afforded me unique opportunities that helped me to be where I am today. I grew up in Pinole, CA and attended the University of Miami on a football scholarship. I spent five years as quarterback for the Hurricanes and was a member of two national championship teams in 1989 and 1991. After my senior season in 1992, I won the Heisman Trophy, Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, Maxwell Trophy, Walter Camp Player of the Year, Toyota Leadership Award and a NCAA Top 6 Award. After graduating, I was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings and spent 5 seasons in the National Football League with the Detroit Lions, San Francisco 49ers, Seattle Seahawks and Indianapolis Colts. Since 1998 I have broadcasted NCAA games on Television and radio and currently serve as the Founder and CEO and Play by Play analyst for Touchdown Radio. I am also a Senior Vice President of Gabelli Asset Management.

During my time as a Miami Hurricane, the NCAA had rules in place regarding transfers and there was no ability to monetize your Name Image and Likeness. With the passage of NIL and the creation of a transfer portal, athletes are able to work and monetize their success and notoriety in sport. Essentially allowing all athletes to create their own small business to capitalize on their time competing in college. This NIL window provides the athletes with a head start in earning and saving before graduation and entrance into their chosen professional field, which for the majority will not be as a professional athlete. These experiences will be beneficial going forward in their lives.

In college athletics, one can always find examples of a player and/or Institution not following the rules. When these rules have been broken in the past, it led to an athlete losing eligibility, schools being placed on probation, fines, bowl bans, etc. With the current NIL system, there are no NCAA rules for the Universities to follow, only guidelines. Coaches do not devise game plans to be within “guidelines”, they create game plans following the rules of the game.

Because the NCAA has failed to issue “rules” for the schools to follow and because each institution is governed by a different set of State laws, Congress must step forward with federal legislation for all of the Universities to follow regarding NIL.

I believe Congress needs to enact NIL legislation as soon as possible. An effective bill, in my opinion, should include:

- A National NIL Standard so there is consistency across the country to ensure everyone is playing by the same set of rules.
- Transparency and Registration of all NIL Agreements.
- Standard NIL Contracts.
- Prohibition of Inducements.
- Strong Enforcement measures.
- Bring “Collectives” Under the Guidance of each Institution’s Athletic Department.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

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