



June 15, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Thank you for your continued leadership in addressing the challenges facing collegiate athletics in a thoughtful and sustainable manner. Our conferences appreciate the bipartisan effort to create the Protect College Sports Act (PCSA). **We strongly support moving the bill forward through the Senate process.**

Along with the expansion of benefits and protections for student-athletes, we applaud elements of the PCSA that preserve the foundational principles we see as critical to the existence and future success of college sports.

- **Primacy of Education:** Integrating college athletics principally within the academic mission as a human development experience, including an age-based eligibility model tied to traditional matriculation through an institution of higher education and transfer rules that prioritize academic continuity.
- **Holistic Development and Support:** Expanding student-athlete benefits from comprehensive experiences and support that promote growth across academic, physical, mental, and personal dimensions.
- **Broad-Based and Equitable Opportunities:** Incentivizing institutions to maximize broad-based and equitable participation and scholarship opportunities, regardless of sport or gender.

- **Sustainability:** Assisting athletic departments to operate within responsible financial frameworks that allow institutions to prioritize expanded student-athlete benefits and opportunities over time.

Beyond these core elements, we appreciate that the PCSA addresses many of the current challenges plaguing college sports, including the preemption of numerous state laws, while also providing limited liability protection, against pending and future litigation, to set and enforce rules involving NIL compensation, eligibility, and transfers. Critical to the scope of liability protection is extending the limited protection to pending/existing litigation across the same areas that would ultimately be shielded when the bill becomes law.

Additionally, we support the NCAA's recent recommendations to strengthen the bill. Principally, we view protecting Olympic and women's sports as a critical priority for our future. However, we recognize the challenge to do this universally, as institutions with different financial scales sponsor different numbers of sports. We want to continue working with you and others to identify solutions that positively impact all institutions.

Finally, our institutions remain concerned about ongoing efforts to classify student-athletes as employees. Such a classification would challenge the financial sustainability of many athletics programs and fundamentally alter the educational and developmental relationship between student-athletes and their institutions. While we understand and respect that the PCSA has not taken a position and believes additional study is warranted, we look forward to working with members of Congress in the future to preserve a framework that supports student-athlete development and education rather than an employer-employee context.

We sincerely appreciate your united leadership to stabilize the college sports landscape. The Protect College Sports Act is a significant step forward and addresses many of the challenges facing collegiate athletics. We look forward to the bill progressing through the Senate, while working with you to ensure it continues supporting the transformative academic and athletic opportunities that positively impact hundreds of thousands of students each year.

Thank you again for your hard work to stabilize and strengthen college athletics.

Sincerely,



Mr. Tom Wistrill
Commissioner, Big Sky Conference



Mr. Dan Butterly
Commissioner, The Big West



Ms. Jill Bodensteiner
Commissioner, Horizon League



Mr. Travis Tellitocci
Commissioner, Metro Atlantic Athletic



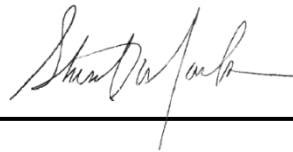
Mr. Matt Wilson
Commissioner, Ohio Valley Conference



Mr. Josh Fenton
Commissioner, The Summit League



Ms. Rebekah Ray
Commissioner, Western Athletic Conference



Mr. Stu Jackson
Commissioner, West Coast Conference