



Gloria Nevarez, Commissioner

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches, and member institutions of the Mountain West Conference, I write to express our strong support for the Protecting College Sports Act.

College athletics is at a pivotal moment. Over the past several years, a patchwork of state laws, litigation, and rapidly evolving regulations have created significant uncertainty for student-athletes, institutions, and conferences alike. We commend the bipartisan leadership in developing legislation that represents a thoughtful and meaningful step toward restoring stability, consistency, and fairness to the college athletics landscape.

While no single piece of legislation can resolve every issue facing intercollegiate athletics, the Protecting College Sports Act makes substantial progress on several of the most important priorities identified by colleges and universities. Most notably, the bill establishes a national framework for Name, Image, and Likeness activities, replacing the current patchwork of state laws with a more consistent and predictable system. The legislation also provides important antitrust protections that allow governing bodies to establish and enforce reasonable eligibility, transfer, and competition rules that are essential to maintaining fair and orderly competition.

Equally important, the legislation strengthens protections and support systems for student-athletes. Enhanced oversight of the NIL marketplace, increased transparency, and investments in health, wellness, and academic support will help ensure that student-athletes can succeed both athletically and in the classroom.

We are also encouraged by the bill's voluntary media rights provisions, which have the potential to generate additional resources that can be reinvested into opportunities for student-athletes, particularly in Olympic and women's sports that are central to the educational mission of our institutions.

We recognize that questions remain regarding the employment status of student-athletes. While we would welcome additional clarity on this issue, we also understand the importance of achieving bipartisan consensus and believe the progress represented by this legislation should not be delayed while broader debates continue.

As Congress considers this legislation, we respectfully ask that policymakers continue to ensure that ALL athletic conferences, not only the wealthiest, maintain meaningful access to NCAA governance, championship opportunities, and equitable participation in the future structure of college athletics. A healthy national athletics model depends on opportunities for student-athletes and institutions across all regions and competitive levels of Division I athletics.

The need for stability in college athletics has never been greater. The Protecting College Sports Act represents an important and constructive step forward. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the future of college sports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Nevarez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gloria Nevarez
Commissioner
Mountain West Conference