



6/17/2026

The Honorable Christopher Coons
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Protect College Sports Act of 2026

Dear Senator Coons and Senator Blunt Rochester:

On behalf of the University of Delaware, I write to thank you for your work on the development of the *Protect College Sports Act of 2026* (the “Bill”), and to seek your support and the support of your congressional colleagues in its passage. The Bill resolves complex issues that have impacted the governance of collegiate athletics, especially those emerging since the inception of varying state name, image, and likeness (“NIL”) laws that were introduced in 2021.

Several of the Bill’s provisions are especially important to institutions like the University of Delaware:

- **A uniform national framework for NIL and governance.** The single national standard in Section 101 and Title I is what a program like ours needs to replace an unworkable state-by-state patchwork. It gives institutions, conferences, and student-athletes legal certainty; the limited antitrust exemption in the Bill lets the enterprise make and enforce a single set of essential rules.
- **Real protections for student-athletes.** The enforceable standards in Sections 105 through 112, spanning academic protections, medical coverage, health and safety, and transfer fairness, reflect how we already strive to support our students, while preserving the educational promise that sets collegiate athletics apart. At Delaware, academic excellence is central to that commitment; last year our student-athletes earned a collective 3.365 GPA, the 12th straight year above a 3.0 for our 650-plus student-athletes.
- **A modern and more equitable economic model.** The Title II amendments to the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 give institutions the option to pool media rights and tie revenue to actual viewership. We encourage the final Bill to ensure that revenue reaches every

program and every student-athlete, including the non-revenue and Olympic sports central to the collegiate model.

The benefits of a strong collegiate system reach well beyond campus borders. Each home football game we host in Newark generates more than \$1 million in economic activity for our state. This Bill represents a vital avenue for preserving collegiate athletics as a national asset for the future.

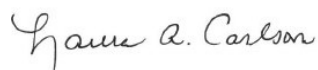
While the University has already expressed its support for the Bill through Conference USA, the Division I FBS conference in which we compete, we wanted to reach out to you both directly, as our home-state senators, to urge your support for its passage. We believe this Bill offers a viable path forward for the future of higher education and collegiate sports.

To help maximize the impact of this important legislation, we respectfully raise two areas where the final Bill can provide even greater certainty. First, we encourage clear guidance on how Title IX applies to direct institutional support for student-athletes, giving institutions a stable and predictable standard to apply. Second, we urge express confirmation that student-athletes remain students first rather than employees; on that question, the federal courts that govern Delaware have taken a different view than courts elsewhere, leaving institutions like ours without a settled answer that a national standard would resolve. Our hope for these refinements does not diminish our desire to see the core Bill passed.

We are deeply grateful to both of you for your ongoing support of the University and the State of Delaware. We also thank you, Senator Coons, together with Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Maria Cantwell (D-Washington), and Eric Schmitt (R-Missouri), for your leadership in sponsoring this Bill and involving key stakeholders as it approaches a vote in the Senate.

Thank you for your continued service to our country and for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Carlson".

Laura Carlson
President
University of Delaware