



The Protect College Sports Act

Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)

The Problem

College sports have always been bigger than the final score. They bring families and towns together on October Saturdays and winter nights, unite generations of alumni and friends, and create opportunities for young men and women to compete, learn, and represent their schools with pride.

But today that tradition is in crisis.

Fans see their favorite rivalries disappearing. Their schools are being eviscerated in the portal by the blue bloods. Olympic and women's sports are getting canceled. Student athletes are being pulled through an unstable, semi-pro market without clear protections or an education because of recent court decisions and a patchwork of state laws. Programs and governing bodies are trapped in constant litigation and uncertainty, making it impossible to enforce rules, operate with integrity, or have competitive balance.

Why Is Legislation Needed?

The courts have produced a system with unlimited transfers, pro athletes playing college ball, and shady NIL deals. Schools and governing bodies need the ability to preserve fair competition, protect student athletes from exploitation, and ensure that programs across the country can survive.

Without legislative action, more athletic programs will vanish, as will longstanding rivalries, and much of what generations of Americans have loved about college sports will soon fade away.

The Solution: The Protect College Sports Act

The Protect College Sports Act restores a national rulebook so student athletes can earn NIL, fans can still watch the teams they love compete fairly, and college sports does not become a two-conference minor league.

The Protect College Sports Act:

1. **Ends the roster chaos** with national rules for transfers (one free undergrad) and eligibility (5-in-5)
2. Creates enforceable **standards on recruiting, tampering**, and NIL disclosures
3. Protects student athletes' right to earn from their own NIL
4. Enables **enforcement of House settlement** on revenue sharing and fake NIL deals
5. Sanctions against agents that take advantage of student athletes, facilitate player poaching, and recruit tampering
6. Protects women's sports, Olympic sports, and scholarship opportunities
7. **Preserves historic rivalries**
8. Keeps college sports tied to education, so student athletes become successful adults
9. Prohibits **football coaches from quitting mid-season** to be hired by another program
10. Guarantees safety standards, health care, and an ombudsman for student athletes
11. Makes TV money work for college sports with an option for schools to pool media rights
12. Stops Super League consolidation