

May 31, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
daniel_crumpler@cruz.senate.gov

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
senator_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Thank you for your leadership and for the considerable work that has gone into developing the Protect College Sports Act of 2026. I appreciate the time, attention, and collaboration devoted to advancing a thoughtful legislative framework for college athletics during a period of significant change.

As the commissioner of the Big 12 Conference I write to express support for the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and to commend the bipartisan effort to establish a more consistent national framework for college athletics. This legislation reflects an important commitment to and a good foundation for greater stability, clearer standards, and meaningful protections for student-athletes.

I appreciate your leadership on this important effort and welcome continued engagement with you and other stakeholders as it advances in the Senate. Through continued collaboration, I am confident we can further refine this legislation in a manner that best serves our student-athletes, member institutions, and the long-term future of college athletics.

Sincerely,

Brett Yormark
Commissioner



BIG 12 CONFERENCE

5215 NORTH O'CONNOR BLVD. STE 1650, IRVING, TEXAS 75039 | 469-524-1000 | BIG12SPORTS.COM





ACCOMPLISH
GREATNESS

May 31, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cruz and Cantwell:

I write to express great appreciation for your introduction of the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act of 2026. Your comprehensive approach in proposing solutions to the most pressing issues facing college sports is deserving of praise.

College sports means a great deal to the 18 institutions in the ACC and the students and communities they serve. While we continue to address the needs of our student-athletes through comprehensive reform, only Congress can provide solutions that truly stabilize a system that changes the lives of so many participants through leadership, mentorship and the attainment of lifelong earning potential through academic degrees from the world's leading institutions of higher education.

As my team and I digest all aspects of this comprehensive bill and review the same with the ACC membership, we look forward to continued collaboration with you, your colleagues and other stakeholders as we together strengthen college sports for future generations.

Thank you for your dedicated work and continued commitment to intercollegiate athletics and to higher education.

Best regards,

James J. Phillips, PhD
Commissioner
Atlantic Coast Conference

620 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 1200 | CHARLOTTE, NC 28202 | PHONE: 704.936.0503 | THEACC.COM





TIM PERNETTI
COMMISSIONER

June 1, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
daniel_crumpler@cruz.senate.gov

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
senator_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the American Conference, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for the meaningful work that has been done to introduce the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act of 2026. We truly appreciate your determined leadership in listening and advancing sensible solutions and a legislative framework to address the challenges facing college sports today.

The American Conference supports the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and sees this moment as an opportunity for our entire industry to come together to set forth a structured future. As a former student-athlete I am a product of the life-changing experiences that college sports provide. It is our responsibility to establish a framework so that all student-athletes will have the opportunity to earn degrees from our world-class institutions, become leaders, and win championships.

We appreciate the consistent engagement with both of you and your colleagues in this effort and look forward to continuing to work together to review and refine the bill as it advances through the Senate process. We are confident that through continued collaboration with you, your colleagues and leaders in our industry, that we can establish a framework for certainty and stability for all of college sports that protects student-athletes and insures a strong future.

College sports galvanize fans, it brings people together and it evokes passion and belief in something bigger than any individual. It belongs to all of us. The Protect College Sports Act of 2026 will help to preserve and strengthen something that we love and is truly meaningful to our country.

Warm regards,

Tim Perneti
Commissioner
American Conference

545 E JOHN CARPENTER FWY, STE 300 | IRVING, TX 75062





June 1, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ryan_Cannon@commerce.senate.gov

The Honorable Eric Schmitt
U.S. Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
MK_Fedorchak@schmitt.senate.gov

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
christian_chiles@cantwell.senate.gov

The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
brian_winseck@coons.senate.gov

Dear Senators Cruz, Cantwell, Schmitt and Coons

As Presidents, Chancellors, current and former Board Chairs and governing Board Members of colleges and universities across the United States, we write to express our enthusiastic support for the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and its comprehensive effort to reform college athletics.

Intercollegiate athletics are an essential ingredient in our educational mission, providing over 550,000 student-athletes annually with unparalleled opportunities for academic achievement, leadership development, social mobility and lifelong success. The current fragmented state-by-state system has only produced confusion, compliance challenges, competitive imbalance and financial distress. Thoughtful and comprehensive reform, such as the Protect College Sports Act of 2026, will provide much needed stability while preserving access, opportunity and increased revenue, as well as underscoring the values that distinguish collegiate athletics and make our academic mission the envy of the world.

As a group, we live in the world of higher education daily. We recognize the complexity of these issues and appreciate your leadership in pursuing a comprehensive, balanced, bipartisan and durable framework. The United States remains the only country in the world whereby a young adult can attain a world class education and compete at the highest level of athletics. We stand ready to work with you and key stakeholders to ensure that the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 is passed and reflects our academic mission and the needs of student-athletes and sustains the long-term vitality of college athletics nationwide.



Thank you for your dedicated work and continued commitment to higher education and intercollegiate athletics.

Sincerely,

Casey Adams
President's Leadership Council
Brigham Young University

Amy Roach Bailey
Trustee & Chair of Academic Affairs
Texas Christian University

Steve Ballentine
Trustee & Chair of Athletics Committee
Syracuse University

Michael Benson
President
West Virginia University

Larry Benz
Chairman of the Board
University of Louisville

Mike Berry
Trustee
Texas Christian University

Gerry Bradley
President
University of Louisville

Betsy Cantwell
President
Washington State University

Alex Cartwright
President
University of Central Florida

Bill Christy
Vice Chair of the Board
University of Central Florida

Ken Coit
Benefactor
University of Arizona

David Cook
President
Iowa State University

Phil Collins
Former Board Chair
University of Cincinnati

Michael Corey
President's Athletic Advisory Council
University of Central Florida

Michael Crow
President
Arizona State University

Kelly Damphousse
President
Texas State University

Jim Detterick
Foundation Board Chair
Colorado State University

Rick Dickson
Interim President
University of Tulsa

Digger Earles
Benefactor
Louisiana State University

Spencer Eccles
National Advisory Board member & Benefactor
University of Utah



Taylor Eighmy
President
University of Texas, San Antonio

Curtis Farmer
Chairman of the Board
Wake Forest University

Paul Foster
Former Board Chair, University of Texas
Benefactor, Baylor University

Chris Franklin
Trustee
Oklahoma State University

Alan Friedman
Trustee
Texas Christian University

Jeremy Fudge
Regent
Baylor University

Suresh Garimella
President
University of Arizona

Gordon Gee
Former President
Ohio State, West Virginia, Vanderbilt

Cary Gray
Former Regent
Baylor University

Jay Hartzell
President
Southern Methodist University

Mike Haynie
Chancellor & President
Syracuse University

Larry Heard
Former Regent
Baylor University

David Herche
Benefactor
University of Cincinnati

Jim Hess
President
Oklahoma State University

Dan Hord
Former Regent
Baylor University

Chris Howard
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating
Officer
Arizona State University

Sarah Hubbard
Trustee & Former Board Chair
University of Michigan

Rusty Hutson
Chairman of the Board
West Virginia University

Harrison Keller
President
University of North Texas

Brendan Kelly
President
Eastern Michigan University

Tanya Kelly-Bowry
Vice President Emerita
University of Colorado

Renu Khator
President
University of Houston



Johnny Lawson
Former Board Chair
Virginia Tech

Richard Linton
President
Kansas State University

Linda Livingstone
President
Baylor University

Humberto Lopez
National Board of Advisors & Benefactor
University of Arizona

Anthony Lubrano
Trustee
Pennsylvania State University

Oliver Luck
Board Member
West Virginia University

Lee Mallett
Chairman of the Board
Louisiana State University

Jeremy May
Foundation Board Member & Past Chair
University of Colorado

Drayton McLane
Former Board Chair
Baylor University

David Miller
Former Board Chair
Southern Methodist University

Kyle Miller
Trustee
Southern Methodist University

Kit Moncrief
Chairwoman of the Board
Texas Christian University

Jack Moore
Chairman of the Board
University of Houston

Brad Mortensen
President
Utah State University

Rick Muncrief
Benefactor & OSU Hall of Fame Inductee
Oklahoma State University

Ron Murff
Former Board Chair
Baylor University

Amy Parsons
President
Colorado State University

Katia Passerini
President
Gonzaga University

Todd Patterson
Chairman of the Board
Baylor University

Gary Pierson
Former Board Chair
University of Oklahoma

Neville Pinto
President
University of Cincinnati

Dan Pullin
Chancellor
Texas Christian University



Taylor Randall
President
University of Utah

Ricky Raven
Regent
University of Houston

Shane Reese
President
Brigham Young University

Rusty Reid
Trustee
Texas Christian University

Mark Rountree
Former Board Chair
Baylor University

Wade Rousse
President
Louisiana State University

Todd Saliman
President
University of Colorado

Timothy Sands
President
Virginia Tech

Lawrence Schovanec
President
Texas Tech University

Justin Schwartz
Chancellor
University of Colorado

Jeremiah Shinn
Interim President, Boise State University
Incoming President, University of Montana

Dary Stone
Former Board Chair
Baylor University

Charles Sukup
Benefactor, Former Foundation Board of
Governors Member, & Professor
Iowa State University

Rich Templeton
Board Chair
Southern Methodist University

Derek Thompson
Benefactor
Kansas State University

Dan Toscano
Board Chair
University of Connecticut

Malcolm Turner
Chairman of the Board
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Rick Walker
Chairman of the Board
Oklahoma State University

Susan Wente
President
Wake Forest University

Heather Wilson
President
University of Texas, El Paso

Dustin Womble
Vice Chair of the Board
Texas Tech University



Timothy D. Sands, President (0131)
Burruss Hall, Suite 210
800 Drillfield Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
P: (540) 231-6231
President@vt.edu

June 1, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I write to express appreciation and support for your work on the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act of 2026. This legislation is a major step forward towards stabilizing the college athletics landscape that has been rapidly changing over the past several years.

While there are many provisions in this legislation that will move intercollegiate athletics forward while protecting student athletes, I want to highlight a few that are particularly important. Student athletes will benefit from the provisions regarding agents, which provide for registration, a cap on fees, and establishes a cause of action of student-athletes in response to violations by agents. In addition, the legislation would preempt state and local laws on name, image and likeness to ensure that athletes in one part of the country are no longer treated differently than athletes in other parts of the country. Every intercollegiate athlete would be permitted to benefit from their name, image, and likeness under a uniform standard. Limited antitrust provisions would be established to allow the NCAA to enforce rules intended to support the student-athlete experience

The NCAA and colleges and universities cannot solve these and other issues alone. A federal solution is necessary, and the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 helps provide stability while at the same time providing meaningful protection for student-athletes.

Thank you again for your leadership on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Timothy D. Sands'.

Timothy D. Sands
President

Duke UNIVERSITY

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cruz and Cantwell:

On behalf of Duke University, we thank you for your leadership in support of collegiate athletics and for introducing the Protect College Sports Act of 2026.

Duke University sponsors 27 varsity sports and competes at the NCAA Division I level as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Our athletics program is committed to excellence in competition, academics, and service, providing student-athletes with opportunities to succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

The Protect College Sports Act represents an important step toward establishing a more stable and sustainable framework for college athletics. By addressing key challenges facing the current landscape, the legislation will help preserve educational opportunities, strengthen competitive integrity, and better support the long-term success and well-being of student-athletes nationwide.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you and your colleagues as the legislation advances.

Sincerely,



Vincent E. Price, PhD
President



Nina King
Vice President and King-Compton Families Director of Athletics



June 2, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

I am writing to express strong and enthusiastic support for the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

As you may be aware, Syracuse University is the only New York State university competing at the Power 4 level. As a result, Syracuse Athletics is uniquely positioned as New York's flagship intercollegiate athletics brand, generating substantial economic impact and job creation throughout the state while providing a nationally visible platform that connects Upstate New York with the country's leading media, business, and financial center in New York City. Intercollegiate athletics are also an essential part of our educational mission, providing nearly 600 student-athletes each year with unparalleled opportunities for academic achievement, leadership development, social mobility, and lifelong success.

Without bold, bipartisan action that brings greater clarity and parity to the future of college athletics – such as what you have proposed in the Protect College Sports Act – Syracuse University's significant contributions to the collegiate athletic landscape are at risk. Only Congress can provide the comprehensive reform needed to stabilize an environment unsettled by increasing legal risk, a failing governance model, and ever-escalating costs of maintaining competitive parity. The legislation you have proposed addresses each of these issues for all of college sports, not just the largest schools, while providing an option to achieve a sustainable revenue model that helps preserve the many programs and opportunities that make college athletics in America so special.

The stakes for student athletes and the future of college sports have never been higher, and finding a meaningful solution has never been more urgent. We want to partner with you and your colleagues to keep the educational mission of college sports at the forefront.

I am available to you and your staff at any time to discuss these matters in greater detail.

J. Michael Haynie, PhD
Chancellor and President

CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

900 S. Crouse Avenue / Crouse-Hinds Hall, Suite 600 / Syracuse, New York 13244-2130 / 315-443-2235



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 27, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
daniel_crumpler@cruz.senate.gov


Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you so much for all of your hard work on the "Protect College Sports Act of 2026." As a university president and more importantly as a lifelong educator and fan of collegiate athletics, I deeply appreciate all the hard work that has gone into this extensive bill, and all the work that will go in as hearings and input occur over time.

Please know that if in my role as a member of the President's Roundtable, and as a university system president and former physician leader of a large academic medical center, if there is any role that I can play to be helpful now or in the future, call upon me.

I thank you again and congratulate you on this work.

Yours truly,


Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
President

JPG/lk

cc: Mr. Randy Levine, Vice Chair, President's Roundtable on Saving College Sports
Mr. Cody Campbell, Chairman, Board of Regents, Texas Tech University System

June 1, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Protect College Sports Act of 2026

Dear Senator Cruz and Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of the University of Louisville, we write to thank you for your leadership and to urge swift passage of the *Protect College Sports Act of 2026*. Your bill is the first serious, comprehensive answer to a crisis that incremental fixes, court settlements, and conference politics have failed to resolve. It establishes a uniform national standard for Name, Image, and Likeness; grants a carefully limited antitrust exemption so college sports can finally make and enforce its own rules; and—critically—creates the *option* for institutions and conferences to consolidate media rights so that revenue can support every program, at every school, and the student-athletes who make it all possible.

The present trajectory of college athletics points toward irreparable damage—financial and otherwise—for the vast majority of America's colleges and universities. Inconsistent state laws, relentless litigation, and widening gaps in conference revenue have forced even well-run institutions into impossible budget choices. Costs are spiraling while the system has no lawful means to maximize the revenue that could offset them. The athletes most exposed are not the handful at the top; they are the women's and Olympic-sport competitors whose scholarships and programs are first on the chopping block when departments scramble to fund the revenue sports that keep the enterprise afloat.

This is a structural problem, not a story of individual mismanagement. By the NCAA's own definition, only about one in ten Division I public athletic departments were ever financially self-sustaining, even in the best of times. The notion that these departments stand on their own is one of the most durable fictions in American higher education. No single school can fix this, and no school should be asked to compete its way out of a problem that federal law created and only federal law can solve.

Incremental adjustments will not suffice. Your legislation is the first to put comprehensive reform on the table, and its core provisions map directly onto what college sports actually needs:

1. A uniform national framework for NIL and governance. The state-by-state patchwork is ungovernable—a race to the bottom in which each legislature chases a fleeting recruiting edge. Section 101 and Title I replace that chaos with a clear, preemptive national standard that gives institutions, conferences, and student-athletes the legal certainty they have lacked for years. Only Congress can deliver this, and the limited antitrust exemption in the bill is what finally lets the enterprise make and enforce a single set of rules.

2. A modern economic model with revenue-enhancement optionality. College football is the second-most-watched sport in America, yet it generates only the fifth-most revenue—because conferences are forced to bid against one another and media companies, not schools, control the schedule. Title II's amendments to the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 give college sports the *option* to negotiate media rights through a single-seller model, putting control back in the hands of the institutions and tying revenue to the viewership the games actually command. We want to be precise about this: optionality is not a mandate, and consolidation does not mean equal distribution. Big brands should thrive; smaller schools and non-revenue sports should survive. Framed as a tool rather than a requirement, this provision is difficult to oppose in good faith—no institution should argue against having every lawful means available to serve its student-athletes.

3. Real protections for student-athletes in a professionalizing environment. Sections 105 through 112 give student-athletes enforceable standards for academic freedom, medical coverage, health and safety, transfer fairness, and economic participation—while preserving the educational promise that distinguishes college sports from the professional leagues. These are not abstractions. Our own women's swimming program recently finished seventh at the NCAA Championships with a team grade-point average above 3.0. That is who this is for, and that is what the bill protects.

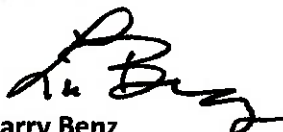
The stakes are not confined to campus. An independent economic-impact analysis found that University of Louisville Athletics generates roughly **\$1.28 billion in economic activity annually** for our city and region. Multiply that across the hundreds of communities that college sports sustains, and the cost of inaction comes into focus: fewer programs, fewer jobs, fewer American Olympians, and far fewer young people whose lives are changed by the opportunity to compete and earn a degree.

American higher education is at an inflection point, and only comprehensive reform can clear both chambers and become law. Half-measures will leave us with a caste system of haves and have-nots—the predictable end of which is a narrower, more unequal, and far less American institution. We have studied this problem long enough. The time for studying it is over.

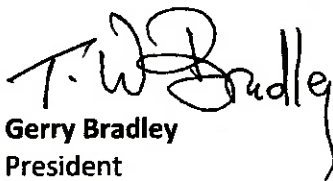
The *Protect College Sports Act of 2026* allows compensation while preserving the connection to education with finite eligibility and fair competition. It represents the best chance we have to preserve college sports as a national asset—an unmatched engine of social mobility, leadership, and educational opportunity for young Americans. The University of Louisville stands firmly behind it, and we remain at your disposal to assist in any way that advances its passage.

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

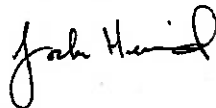
Respectfully,



Larry Benz
Chairman, Board of Trustees
University of Louisville



Gerry Bradley
President
University of Louisville



Josh Heird
Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics
Director of Athletics
University of Louisville



Office of the President

June 3, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ryan_Cannon@commerce.senate.gov

The Honorable Eric Schmitt
U.S. Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
MK_Fedorchak@schmitt.senate.gov

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
christian_chiles@cantwell.senate.gov

The Honorable Chris Coons
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
brian_winseck@coons.senate.gov

Dear Senators Cruz, Cantwell, Schmitt and Coons:

As a member of the American Conference and included in the letter sent on June 1, 2026, to you by Commissioner Perneti and as a signatory to the letter sent to you on June 1, 2026, by the Save College Sports (SCS) coalition, I want to further affirm my institution's support of your Protect College Sports Act of 2026. I was grateful to participate in two of your national virtual dialogues on the future of college athletics.

From my perspective, there is an absolute need to stabilize college athletics by creating a sustainable, long-term model that is financially and operationally viable while preserving the role, health, and well-being of student athletes in the academic environment. The current system is unsustainable and requires thoughtful federal action to establish a stable and durable framework for college athletics.

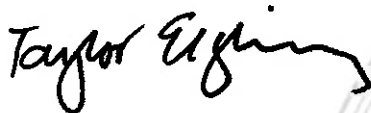
At UT San Antonio, intercollegiate athletics serves as a front porch to our university and our city. As a recently integrated institution with aspirations to become one of the nation's Top 20 premier public research universities, athletics plays a vital role in strengthening our institutional identity, engaging our community, and connecting more than 220,000 Roadrunner alumni across all fifty states. More than 400 current student-athletes—and the thousands who will follow—stand to directly benefit if this legislation advances--- as students, as future alumni, and as ambassadors for our institution. As a former student athlete myself (albeit a long time ago), I can attest to the importance of this stability and clarity--- student athletes are absolutely part of the fabric of our learning and developmental environment as we prepare young people to go out and make the world a better place.

The opportunity you have to bring forward bipartisan legislation at this time is so welcome and timely. Thoughtful and comprehensive legislation that has a chance to produce lasting reform is essential. We are grateful for your leadership at this critical juncture and look to you and your colleagues to provide stability while preserving access, financial stability, student-athlete well-being, and Olympic and women's sports.

I greatly appreciate your work to address a very complex issue in a bipartisan and collaborative fashion, having listened to many important constituencies from both supportive and concerned perspectives.

My colleagues and I in the American Conference stand ready to work and look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues constructively in the Senate and the House as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,



T. Taylor Eighmy, Ph.D.
President, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Carlos Alvarez Distinguished Presidential Chair

CC: Lisa Campos, EdD, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletics Director, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Tim Perneti, Commissioner, The American Conference



June, 2, 2026

Dear Senator Cantwell,

I am extremely supportive of the efforts to pass the Protect College Sport Act. The legislation addresses so many of the critical issues within college athletics. It provides protections for the student athletes regarding NIL and revenue sharing, sports agent reforms, academic areas, medical coverage and transfer protections and many other areas unique to college athletics.

This bill gives college athletics the ability to gain some control over a system that has become increasingly chaotic and is no longer serving the best interest of student athletes and the college landscape as a whole.

Other critical pieces of this act are the limited anti-trust exemption and federal preemption. These two parts will allow college athletics to move forward without concerns for future lawsuits and provide a more equal framework from state-to-state.

There are so many other portions that are extremely important such as gender equity, eligibility framework and recruiting and tampering to name a few.

I feel this legislation needs to be passed to better serve college athletes, alumni, fans, and constituents not only in Kansas but across the nation. College athletics has always been an important part of American life and the framework provided in this bill will help us move forward in a positive way.

Sincerely,

Gene Taylor
Director of Athletics

#KSTATESPORTS



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4705

Dear Senator Cruz and Senator Cantwell,

I want to commend you for working in a bipartisan way to draft and introduce the Protect College Sports Act.

My perspective has been shaped by both what I see happening in college sports today and also significant life experience. I am a two-time university president — South Dakota Mines was Division II in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, and UTEP is Division I FBS and just completed the transition from Conference USA to the Mountain West. As a college athlete, I rowed for Oxford against Cambridge and continued to row in club teams in Europe and the United States after graduation. I served for ten years as a Member of Congress on the House Energy and Commerce Committee with jurisdiction over many of the issues you address in your bill.

It goes without saying that we are navigating through an unprecedented period of radical change in college sports. Without federal legislation that allows regulation, and that applies to all states, I fear irreversible damage to college athletics and to student athletes.

The portal has resulted in large numbers of student athletes making multiple transfers during their college career. While student athletes still do better than the student body as a whole when it comes to college completion, the data shows that about 40% of students who enter the portal do not get an offer from another school. And, while student athletes rotate through the portal, they compromise their educational experience, often graduating with a general studies degree and few experiences beyond sports to help guide them toward meaningful careers and professional lives. Your bill addresses this effectively.

Office of the President
500 West University Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79968-0500
915.747.5555



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Second, we are now seeing lawsuits questioning the ability of universities and the NCAA to limit college eligibility. With appealing compensation given to college athletes, those 90% or more who will not go on to professional sports have a financial interest in staying in college indefinitely. That is not appropriate for college sports. Your bill addresses this effectively.

Third, your bill enshrines in law provisions related to athlete welfare and seeks to protect Olympic sports and women's sports. I particularly appreciate those provisions.

Finally, while addressing the most urgent problems, your bill leaves the door open to an alternative future in which, if 75% of large universities agree, college sports could take a different path entirely and create a new model that might be significantly better for student athletes and fans than the path we are on. It would be up to us to develop those ideas and work together to pursue them, but your bill allows room for that.

There is a short window to act and a crowded calendar. I appreciate the significant work you and your staffs have put into the development of this bill, and the compromises you have both made to get this far.

I commend you for your work.

Sincerely,

Heather Wilson
President