

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