



**Joint Statement of Support from the
NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee Chair
and the NCAA II and III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Chairs**

Dear Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

As the Chair of the Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee and the Chairs of the NCAA Division II and Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC), we have the privilege of representing more than **500,000 NCAA student-athletes across the country**. Through ongoing conversations with student-athletes from every division, sport, and campus, we work to ensure their voices are reflected in discussions that shape the future of college athletics.

We are grateful for the **bipartisan efforts of Senators Cantwell and Cruz** in advancing the Protect College Sports Act and for their continued engagement with student-athletes on issues impacting college athletics. Student-athletes need lawmakers to step up and ensure thoughtful, effective policies that reflect their experiences and support the long-term success of college sports. We appreciate the steps this legislation takes to address current challenges and strengthen the college athletics model.

We strongly support the bill's protections for student-athletes of all divisions, including **transfer rights** and NIL opportunities, with safeguards for coaching changes, sports discontinuation, graduate transfers, and cases involving sexual assault or harassment. We also support NIL provisions such as **agent registration, a national registry, transparency measures, and fee limits**, which help protect student-athletes from exploitation. In addition, we strongly support a standardized national NIL framework paired with targeted **antitrust protections** to reduce legal uncertainty and allow student-athletes, institutions, conferences, and practitioners to develop and enforce consistent, durable rules without constant litigation risk. As the Senate refines the legislation, we encourage preserving governance pathways for recently graduated student-athletes serving in high-level leadership, allowing for sport-specific transfer windows, and strengthening protections for women's and Olympic sports. We also believe the bill can be strengthened to further provide the stability it seeks by closing **loopholes** so states can't make laws to skirt enforcement for violating rules and ensure the bill applies to the especially disruptive current and **pending lawsuits**, not just future ones. While the legislation remains neutral on student-athlete **employment status**, this issue will continue to shape the future of college athletics. Student-athletes across all divisions consistently express a desire to preserve the educational model that makes college sports a unique opportunity for academic, athletic, and leadership development. As these conversations continue, we encourage policymakers to prioritize broad-based participation opportunities and the long-term sustainability of the collegiate athletics model.

We appreciate your continued engagement with student-athletes on legislation impacting college athletics. Representing more than 500,000 student-athletes, we remain committed to partnering in these discussions and sharing their perspectives. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure college athletics prioritizes opportunity, education, competition, and student-athlete well-being. Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication to the future of college sports and public service.

Sincerely,

Meredith Page, *DI SAAC Chair*

Rachel McCool, *DII SAAC Chair*

Josey Johnson, *DIII SAAC Chair*
