



Southeastern Conference – Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Dear Senator Tuberville,

As a representative of the Southeastern Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), I write on behalf of thousands of student-athletes across the conference to express our support for the Protect College Sports Act and encourage you to vote in favor of the bill.

College athletics provides one of the most unique and transformative opportunities to young adults, allowing them to pursue higher education, compete at the highest level, and develop leadership skills that continue beyond their playing careers. At the same time, student-athletes should be able to benefit from the value of their name, image, and likeness. These principles are not in conflict. A well-structured system can protect the traditional college experience while ensuring that student-athletes have access to fair and meaningful economic opportunities.

College athletics is at a critical point, and the absence of consistent national standards has created uncertainty for student-athletes, institutions, and conferences. The Protect College Sports Act would establish a national framework to promote stability, protect student-athletes, and preserve opportunities for current and future generations. We support the bill for the following reasons:

- 1. Student-athletes deserve clear and consistent national rules.** The current patchwork of state laws and court decisions has created inconsistent regulations for student-athletes depending on where they attend school. The Protect College Sports Act would establish uniform federal standards governing NIL, eligibility, transfers, and related matters. This consistency would provide greater transparency for student-athletes, institutions, conferences, and families while promoting more competitive equity.
- 2. College athletics must prioritize academics and student-athlete health and safety.** College athletics provides student-athletes with access to higher education, academic support, career development, medical care, mental health resources, and leadership opportunities. This bill protects student-athletes from pressure regarding their academic choices, safeguards scholarships, and helps ensure continued progress

toward degree completion. It also strengthens medical coverage and health and safety standards, including protections related to sports injuries, catastrophic conditions, second opinions, and care following an athlete's final competition. These provisions help preserve the holistic development that makes college athletics unique.

3. Student-athletes should have opportunities to benefit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL) while ensuring fairness and transparency. Student-athletes should be able to benefit from the value they create through their NIL. This bill protects legitimate NIL opportunities while establishing safeguards against exploitation and cap-evasion.

Agent registration, written contracts, clear disclosure requirements, limits on agent fees, and protections against deceptive conduct would help student-athletes make informed decisions and avoid predatory practices. A structured enforcement process for the revenue-sharing cap would also provide greater transparency and accountability.

4. Congress must preserve athletic opportunities across all sports. The strength of college athletics depends on the wide range of opportunities available across men's, women's, Olympic, emerging, and non-revenue sports. The Protect College Sports Act includes protections related to roster opportunities, scholarships, championship events, and continued investment in sports beyond football and men's basketball. These provisions are important to ensuring that student-athletes across a broad range of sports can continue to compete, pursue their education, and represent their institutions.

I urge the Senate to take decisive action by advancing the Protect College Sports Act. The bill reflects extensive collaboration and compromise among conferences, university leaders, coaches, and student-athletes. While no legislation will resolve every question facing college athletics, this bill provides a meaningful foundation for greater stability, transparency, opportunity, and student-athlete protection.

As a member of the Southeastern Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, I am committed to leaving college athletics better than we found it – for the high school students who are just beginning to consider this path and for the generations of student-athletes who will follow. Thank you for your leadership and for the time and effort devoted to the Protect College Sports Act. We are hopeful that this bipartisan effort will establish a firm foundation for the future of college athletics, and [I or we] respectfully urge you to support the bill.

Kind regards,

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