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The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the President's Roundtable on Fixing College Sports which includes individuals and organizations representing colleges, conferences, and student-athletes, fans, and alumni, we write to respectfully urge the United States House of Representatives to take up and swiftly pass S. 4668, the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act of 2026 ("PCSA"), upon your return in November so that President Trump can sign this critical legislation into law this calendar year.

As you know, the United States Senate approved the PCSA with an overwhelming 77 votes in favor of this historic bill. You now have an incredible opportunity to get this legislation over the finish line. We need you to build upon your past constructive work and leadership on this issue and act swiftly to save college sports.

Passage of the PCSA is critical to preserve the uniquely American tradition of college athletics, and more specifically, the well-being of all of our incredible student-athletes, the preservation of women's and Olympic sports programs, the advancement of essential financial support to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, for the benefit of universities and colleges, both large and small, across every one of your 435 congressional districts, and the enactment of commonsense reforms to a broken system that college sports fans in every state (and congressional district) have been demanding.

While no legislation ever fully meets every interested party's desires or wants, and some special interests will always argue for more — even putting their own interests ahead of an entire system— the PCSA is a bipartisan compromise that has been heavily shaped by previous House legislation, intensive negotiation in the Senate, input from the Executive Branch, House-specific hearings, extensive input from hundreds of colleges and universities, conferences, and student-athletes. All of this has occurred while we continue to observe the decline of the state of college athletics and specific problems that have emerged and continue to appear every day.

It is a system that has led to colleges bleeding money, raiding their endowments, cutting women's and Olympic sports and raising tuition and student fees. It also will eliminate the daily patchwork of local court decisions, state executive orders and tax preferences that seem to grow widespread every day.

As such, the PCSA as currently drafted solves the largest problems driving the collegiate athletics crisis. It creates a national framework to preempt conflicting state laws; provides tailored and extremely narrow antitrust exemptions to the NCAA and the College Sports Commission only for enforcement of statutory rules on transfers, eligibility, and revenue sharing; codifies student athlete NIL rights, scholarship, and healthcare benefits; cements into law the benefits from the House settlement while also creating an additional "retention pool fund" that more than doubles thc availablc funds to compensate student-athletes with a guaranteed portion solely dedicated to women's and Olympic sports participants; implements a long-overdue five percent cap on agent commissions; and identifies new revenue sources in the years ahead. PCSA also for the first time provides meaningful private rights of action in order to enforce student-athlete rights.

As we move forward, we also want to briefly address the limited, yet predictable, opposition driven by special interests and wholly based on a few false premises:

Some claim that the PCSA somehow takes money away from student-athletes. The truth is that nothing could be further from the truth. As you know, all of the student-athletes and their respective universities previously agreed to the House settlement, which finalized a negotiated hard cap/compensation pathway. That exact agreement has now been codified in this bill. Furthermore, while some make claims to the contrary, legitimate third-party NIL agreements are still permitted under the PCSA and are not counted within either the House or retention pools.

However, what is now not permitted are the under-the-table, illegal NIL payments/arrangements that have marred the entire system. Lastly, in terms of available student-athlete compensation, the PCSA has added millions of additional dollars annually in the form of: (i) an annual $22.5 million retention pool that can be used to pay any and all student-athletes (regardless of sports program) to remain at their current school of commitment; and (ii) an additional $5 million annually available to be used solely for the retention of female and Olympic student-athletes.

This PCSA will finally make student-athlete compensation fair and transparent. Unsurprisingly those who object to it seem to object to transparency and want to continue the out-of-control and illegal payments that have led to this crisis. These include self-serving agents (who now call themselves "Athletes Advocates"), who do not want their compensation reduced and some boosters who do not want their influence reduced.

In reality, the PCSA solidifies the difference between student-athletes and professional athletes that is the choice this bill makes. The PCSA chooses student-athletes. The opponents choose professional athletes.

Additionally, there are less than a handful of schools who object to elements of the realignment provisions in Section 205 of the bill. The fact that such a small number of schools are objecting out

of the over 350-plus colleges and universities who support this bill should show you that this is not a concern for almost the entirety of America's higher education system.

Some have incorrectly proposed that there has been no student-athlete input into the PCSA. The truth is that there have been countless number of interviews, videos, congressional testimony and letters of support, including most recently from the NCAA National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, that evidence full and vocal support for the bill. They know that if this bill doesn't get done in this Congress, the chances are that this will never get done and that they will lose meaningful access to health benefits, scholarship protections, and millions of dollars annually in additional compensation they do not have now. They will remain without protection from abuse by self-serving agents.

The subject of student athletes becoming employees, joining unions and engaging in collective bargaining is often raised by opponents of the PCSA. Some agree student-athletes should join a union and engage in collective bargaining. Others argue they cannot be employees so they cannot join a union or engage in collective bargaining. The PCSA does not allow it or disallow it. That is because currently, it is illegal for most colleges. Over eighty percent of Division One schools are public universities. Thus, their student-athletes would be deemed state employees.

The National Labor Relations Act, the pillar of our labor relations since 1938, exempts state employees and leaves their status to the individual states. In many states it is either illegal to join a union, engage in collective bargaining, bargain over wages or benefits or even strike.

Therefore, until Federal law and all these state laws are amended, the issue is moot.

We recognize that the upcoming "lame duck" session of the 119th Congress will have many competing priorities to tackle in both chambers before the clock runs out. But there is a reason why polls show over three-quarters of American voters support passage of the PCSA: they recognize that the current system is badly broken and that only Congress can fix it.

This is your opportunity to meet this historic moment. We respectfully ask that you do so by taking up the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act in November and passing it as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and the leadership we know you will show on this critical front in the weeks ahead.

Very truly yours,

Randy Levine, Vice Chair

The undersigned members of the President's Roundtable on Fixing College Sports

Governor Ron DeSantis, Vice Chair

Cody Campbell

Boris Epshteyn

Adam Silver

Brett Yormark

Charlie Baker

Charlie Ward

Condi Rice

David Blitzer

Douglas Girod

Ellen Granberg

Jack Swarbrick

Eric Shanks

Gerry Cardinale

Greg Sankey

James Pitaro

Jamie Pollard

Jay Clayton

Jeffrey Gold

Jeremiah Dickey

Joe Castiglione

John Currie

John Donahoe

Jonathan Kraft

Lou Lamoriello

Mack Brown

Marc Ganis

Nick Saban

Peter Bevacqua

Robert Klein

Sarah Hirshland

Scott Dolson

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