November 16, 2026

Dear California House Delegation,

On behalf of our universities, we urge the California delegation to help pass the bipartisan Protect College Sports Act of 2026 (S. 4668) and send it to the president for signature before Congress adjourns. Our universities are deeply concerned about the current instability of college sports and the impact it has on our student-athletes, on the academic foundations of college sports, and the financial outlook for college athletics in California.

We believe deeply in preparing our student-athletes for success as productive citizens and leaders. We are proud of our varsity athletics programs that have provided valuable educational opportunities to generations of student-athletes, some of whom may not have realized a path to higher education without their involvement in college sports.

The current situation is no longer sustainable. The patchwork of conflicting eligibility rules, ongoing litigation, and the lack of a level national playing field are consuming the resources needed to support students and maintain teams.

These challenges are especially acute for non-revenue-generating sports, including many women's and Olympic sports. Our programs train and prepare the athletes that go on to compete for Team USA. In 2024, California colleges and universities sent more than 200 student-athletes to the Paris Olympics, over half women. Preserving these programs is vital for the nation. As our state prepares to host the next Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028, our athletes are preparing to qualify to compete in those games. They can do so because of the programs our schools offer.

PCSA will help protect these sports and establish much needed nationwide rules and legal standards. Importantly, the bill includes protections for student health and scholarships along with uniform national standards for NIL, transfer eligibility, recruiting, and protections against unscrupulous agents. Like any comprehensive piece of legislation, the bill reflects compromise and is not perfect, but it will help restore academics to the center of college athletics. This is the best opportunity before us to protect California's college athletics ecosystem and the student-athletes it supports.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

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