October 30, 2026

Dear Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation:

We write on behalf of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University to urge you to support the Protect College Sports Act when it comes before the House of Representatives this fall. As the presidents of Michigan's two largest public research universities, we believe Congress has an important opportunity to establish a fair, transparent, and durable national framework for college athletics that protects student-athletes, preserves their opportunities, and provides the stability necessary for universities to continue investing in their academic, athletic, and personal success.

We are deeply grateful for the time and effort Congress has dedicated to addressing this critical issue. College athletics has changed profoundly in recent years, creating important opportunities for student-athletes, including the ability to benefit financially from their name, image, and likeness. At the same time, the absence of consistent national standards has produced a fragmented system governed by conflicting state laws. Student-athletes shouldn't bear the burden of navigating that uncertainty, nor should their rights and protections depend upon the state in which they attend college. Universities should compete based on the strength of their programs and their ability to develop students academically and athletically, not on differences in state law or gaps in an uncertain regulatory system.

For Michigan, the stakes are significant. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University each support hundreds of student-athletes across women's and men's sports – including Olympic and non-revenue sports – and have made substantial commitments to their education and support. A consistent national framework will help ensure our universities can continue to compete for championships on a level playing field based on the strength of our programs and our investments in student-athletes.

The benefits extend well beyond our campuses. Intercollegiate athletics attracts visitors, generates economic activity, strengthens the national visibility of our universities and state, and connects communities. Analyses have shown that Wolverine and Spartan college athletics generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact to Michigan's economy. A national system that allows Michigan's universities to compete fairly and succeed nationally advances the broader economic interests of our state.

The Protect College Sports Act offers a meaningful path forward. The legislation has evolved following bipartisan negotiations and engagement with universities, conferences, student-athletes, and other stakeholders. The Senate-passed bill strengthens the framework governing compensation and enforcement while preserving legitimate commercial NIL opportunities. The legislation establishes greater accountability for agents, provides greater predictability surrounding eligibility and transfers while maintaining meaningful mobility, and protects scholarships, medical care, and other benefits provided to student-athletes. The bill creates mechanisms for student-athlete representation, whistleblower protection, and enforcement of their rights. Our responsibility to student-athletes extends to their education, health and wellness, and professional development.

We recognize that the Protect College Sports Act remains agnostic towards the ongoing national discussion concerning the economic rights of student-athletes and their status under federal labor law. We believe Congress can address the immediate need for enforceable national standards without prejudging broader questions that deserve continued consideration.

With the House of Representatives expected to consider the legislation this fall we respectfully ask for your support in advancing the Senate-approved version of Protect College Sports Act. The legislation has support from all four A4 conferences as well as hundreds of colleges, universities and major organizations across college and professional sports. Restarting the legislative process next year would be a significant setback for institutions and student-athletes who need greater certainty now.

We welcome the opportunity for our respective athletic directors, Warde Manuel and Dan Bartholomae, to speak directly with you about the impact of these changes on student-athletes and athletic programs at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. They can speak to the challenges under the current system, the investments our universities are making, and why a national framework is critical to protecting those opportunities for the future.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of Michigan and for your consideration of this important issue. We stand ready to work with you as the House considers the Protect College Sports Act.

As always, we are grateful for your support and your interest in U-M and MSU.

Sincerely,

Domenico Grasso
President
University of Michigan

Kevin Guskiewicz
President
Michigan State University