WKU

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 9, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

On behalf of Western Kentucky University, I appreciate your continued leadership on issues important to higher education and the future of collegiate athletics. I am writing in support of the Protect College Sports Act. While no single piece of legislation can address every challenge facing intercollegiate athletics, this bill is a viable and important step toward establishing a stable, consistent national framework for college sports.

College athletics is an integral part of the mission and identity of Western Kentucky University. Our athletic programs provide extraordinary opportunities for student-athletes, strengthen our connection with alumni and supporters, and serve as an important source of pride for Bowling Green, Warren County, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Like many universities across the country, WKU is navigating a rapidly evolving collegiate athletics environment that presents significant challenges for institutions, conferences, coaches, and, most importantly, student-athletes.

The Protect College Sports Act addresses several issues that deserve careful congressional attention, including name, image, and likeness rights, student-athlete health and safety, eligibility standards, transfer policies, and the financial sustainability of collegiate athletics. Establishing greater clarity and consistency in these areas is important as institutions work to balance the educational mission of higher education with the increasingly complex business and regulatory environment surrounding college sports.

For universities such as WKU, the ability to compete and provide meaningful opportunities for student-athletes requires a framework that recognizes the diversity of institutions and athletic programs across the country. The future of college athletics must account for more than the largest and most well-resourced programs. It must also preserve opportunities for comprehensive universities, mid-major athletic programs, and the thousands of student-athletes whose experiences are shaped by these institutions.

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We believe several principles warrant consideration as Congress evaluates this legislation:

- **Student-athlete well-being:** Protecting the health, safety, academic progress, and long-term interests of student-athletes must remain central to the future of college athletics.
- **A sustainable competitive environment:** Policies should recognize the financial and operational realities facing institutions of different sizes and resources.
- **Institutional flexibility:** Universities need an appropriate level of flexibility to manage their athletic programs in ways that align with their missions, resources, and student needs.
- **National consistency:** A more consistent regulatory framework can help institutions navigate an increasingly complicated landscape of state laws, conference policies, and NCAA regulations.
- **Preservation of broad-based athletics:** The future of college sports should preserve opportunities across a wide range of sports and institutions, including women's sports and Olympic sports.

As Congress considers the Protect College Sports Act, I encourage your support for this legislation and emphasize the importance of passage during this session of Congress. The decisions made today will have lasting consequences for the structure of collegiate athletics and the opportunities available to future generations of student-athletes.

Thank you for your service to Kentucky and for your attention to the future of higher education and college athletics. Western Kentucky University appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this important national conversation.

Regards,

Timothy C. Caboni
President