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## Atlantic Coast Conference Statement of Support for the SCORE Act

The Atlantic Coast Conference writes to inform you of our support for the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsement (SCORE) Act, as drafted on September 9, 2025. This bipartisan bill mandates enhanced benefits to student-athletes such as revenue sharing, NIL rights, healthcare guarantees, and increased scholarship opportunities and codifies other key elements of the *House v. NCAA* settlement. It also provides a stable, uniform national standard in the area of name, image and likeness that will ensure student-athletes are treated fairly regardless of what institution they attend. The SCORE Act protects the educational mission of college athletics and the ability of universities to sponsor a broad-based sports programming through a number of critical provisions, including a requirement that institutions sponsor a minimum of 16 varsity sports programs. In addition, the bill includes a prohibition on student-athletes being classified as employees, which is critical to ensure that universities in conferences of all sizes across the country have the resources to fund women's and Olympic sports.

The SCORE Act embodies and continues the historic commitment of colleges and universities to women's and Olympic sports. For example, according to the most recent Department of Education athletics data, our ACC institutions spent nearly \$620 million on sports other than basketball and football in fiscal year 2024 alone. This ongoing commitment has produced extraordinary opportunities for student-athletes and directly benefited America's Olympic movement. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, Team USA featured 109 athletes with ties to 12 ACC institutions, winning more medals than athletes from any other conference. Athletes from ACC institutions competed in 29 sports, securing 82 medals for Team USA – 35 gold, 23 silver, and 24 bronze. The SCORE Act will ensure that America's storied legacy of Olympic sports not only continues but thrives.

The budget pressures on institutions continue to grow. This legislation is a crucial step to the continuation of significant benefits for student-athletes in all sports and to stabilizing the future of college sports. In fact, since the *House* settlement went into effect, nearly 80% of ACC schools are offering more athletics scholarship support for student-athletes. College sports and the opportunities it provides for life-changing education and athletic pursuits are worth fighting to preserve and enhance. We urge Congress to pass the SCORE Act now.

Sincerely,

James J. Phillips, Ph.D  
Commissioner

Sincerely,

Susan R. Wente, Ph.D  
Board of Directors Chair

