



Statement of Support from The American Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Joy Graziano, and I am a current women's swimming and diving student-athlete at the University of North Texas, representing the student-athletes of The American Conference at the Division I level. The American Conference stretches across thirteen states including Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas with affiliate members in Virginia, West Virginia, New York, and Maryland.

We at The American wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. As a current student-athlete I understand that my coaches are my mentors and my leaders. The SCORE Act reinforces the idea that coaches are just that- mentors. The dynamic that currently exists in the athletic landscape provides student athletes with a space to express themselves and their talents. Our mentors and coaches help us balance our academics and athletics while always helping us become better athletes, students, and community members. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and promotes an environment that allows student-athletes to thrive as both students and as athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The American Conference strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your dedication to collegiate athletics,
Kindest regards,

As the representative of The American Conference SAAC,

Joy Graziano
The American SAAC NCAA Division I Representative
Women's Swimming and Diving
University of North Texas