



## Statement of Support from the Atlantic Sun Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

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Dear Esteemed members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Grace Clark, I am a former women's golf student-athlete at Eastern Kentucky University, representing the student-athletes of the Atlantic Sun Conference at the Division I level. The Atlantic Sun stretches its regional mark across seven states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

We at the Atlantic Sun Conference whole heartedly 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 former student-athlete, I know firsthand that my coaches and staff were so much more than just my bosses. They were my role models and, for many of us, felt like second parents. Ensuring this type of relationship is paramount to the student-athlete experience. It's about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, helping us balance the demands of academics and athletics and become well-rounded citizens. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Atlantic Sun SAAC 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 time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Atlantic Sun Conference SAAC,

Grace Clark  
ASUN NCAA Division I Representative  
Former Women's Golf Athlete  
Eastern Kentucky University