



Statement of Support from the Big East Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of the House of Representatives for the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington D.C., & Wisconsin,

My name is Braeden Pratt, and I am a former men's lacrosse player at St. John's University, where I proudly represented the student-athletes of the Big East Conference at the NCAA Division I level. Each academic year, our institutions showcase the values and vitality of your states on the national stage through collegiate athletics. From our school colors and mascots to the exceptional achievements of our student-athletes, we've become deeply embedded in the cultural and civic life of our communities. Whether by welcoming thousands of spectators to our campuses or volunteering in neighborhoods across the country, we've helped foster what may be one of the most formative and impactful learning experiences available to young adults. **We must step up and protect this platform.**

As a proud representative of the Big East Conference SAAC, I strongly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a vital measure to safeguard the rights, opportunities, and long-term well-being of student-athletes. While the Act promises to enshrine a range of high-impact protections, my perspective as a former Division I athlete who received NIL compensation and now works in financial services has made one thing clear: we must ensure that all student-athletes—regardless of institution or sport—have access to robust financial literacy education, legal and tax advisory resources, and career development support. In conversations with current athletes, particularly in men's basketball, it's evident that some are being exploited by bad third party actors operating in the compensation space. Many institutions within our conference offer exceptional support across these areas, but this must become the standard nationwide. Fair competition demands a level playing field—not just on the court, but in the systems that prepare student-athletes for life beyond it.

In addition, this bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The Big East Conference 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.

As a student-athlete who has loved their collegiate experience, I urge you to vote in favor of the SCORE Act. It is a bill that will protect student-athletes now, as well as the millions of future student-athletes, SAAC leaders, and children with athletic dreams that will come after me.

As the representative of the Big East Conference SAAC,

Braeden Pratt
Big East NCAA Division I Representative
Former Men's Lacrosse Player
St. John's University