



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

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

My name is Rhiannon Davies, and I am a current women's cross country and track student-athlete at Eastern Washington University, representing the student-athletes of the Big Sky Conference at the Division I level. The Big Sky stretches its regional mark across 8 states, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, California, and Arizona.

We at the Big Sky wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights and opportunities. As a current student-athlete, I have become increasingly aware of the difference between athletics and employment. The student-athlete experience has allowed me opportunities that prepare me for success both professionally and academically. Unlike a traditional job, practice has become a place to release my stress and remain competitive in a motivating environment. If I were an employee, this environment would become stressful, and the experience I have had thus far would be eliminated. This is why the SCORE Act is necessary, 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. Big Sky 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 effort to advance the student-athlete experience.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Big Sky Conference SAAC,

Rhiannon Davies
Big Sky NCAA Division I Representative
Cross Country/Track Student-Athlete
Eastern Washington University

