



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

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

My name is Kyla Bruhn, and I am a current women's water polo student-athlete at UC San Diego, representing the student-athletes of the Big West Conference at the Division I level. The Big West includes institutions all across California, and will soon expand its reach to Utah.

We at the Big West Conference 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've experienced firsthand how the student-athlete experience can be enriched when we are supported holistically. The resources provided through athletics have shaped my academic and personal growth, in addition to sport performance. Integral to this was the investment of my coaches in the aspects of my life that were not dependent on sport, which has been foundational to my development as a leader and scholar. The SCORE Act ensures an environment where student-athletes can maintain a level of high performance in all areas of their life, promoting the well-rounded development that prepares us for life beyond graduation.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students first, NOT employees. The Big West 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.

Thank you for your willingness to understand and for your commitment to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Big West Conference SAAC,

Kyla Bruhn
Big West NCAA Division I Representative
Women's Water Polo Student-Athlete
University of California, San Diego