September 11, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg, Ranking Member Scott, Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Jordan, and Ranking Member Raskin:

On behalf of several organizations advocating for the educational mission of college athletics and the preservation of broad-based sports programs and opportunities, we write to offer our support and perspective on the *Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act*.

The SCORE Act represents an important step towards bringing much-needed clarity and stability to college athletics by establishing clear guidelines, protecting the NIL rights of student-athletes, providing medical and health benefits, preempting state law, and clarifying employee status. These policies are not only necessary but essential to ensuring the long-term sustainability of college athletics. We are most supportive of the bill's efforts to codify existing NCAA sports sponsorship requirements of Division I institutions to establish and maintain, as of July 1, 2027, at least 16 varsity sports teams. Codifying this existing NCAA bylaw, which schools have followed for decades, is essential to ensure that women's and Olympic sports programs are not sidelined in the evolving collegiate sports model.

In order to best protect the future of broad-based sports programs, however, we believe the SCORE Act must also codify a requirement to maintain current proportional spending on operational costs for sports other than football and men's and women's basketball. Over the last 20 years, football and men's and women's basketball have accounted for, on average, 78% of the total operational expenditures at Division I schools, despite the fact that they only make up 22% of NCAA athletes. In contrast, broad-based and Olympic sports programs like wrestling, swimming & diving, volleyball, and track & field often receive a much smaller share of the budget. Because athletic department spending is heavily influenced by revenue potential, historical precedent, and institutional priorities, we are gravely concerned that, absent a requirement to maintain current proportional spending, new financial obligations as a result of the *House v. NCAA* settlement will pressure administrators to divert resources away from broad-based sports programs.

This shift is already evident - since the settlement was announced, 40 Division I Olympic sports programs have been eliminated, impacting over 1,000 student-athletes. These decisions have occurred both before and after the settlement's approval, and our associations have had direct conversations with administrators who anticipate additional cuts. California Polytechnic

University President Jeffrey Armstrong recently shed light on the anticipated financial impact of the settlement, stating:

> "The House vs. NCAA settlement, which addresses past and future compensation for student athletes related to name, image and likeness (NIL) rights, will have a significant financial impact – resulting **in a loss of at least $450,000 per year for our programs**."[1] – Jeffrey D. Armstrong, President of California Polytechnic University

As the SCORE Act moves forward in the legislative process, we urge you to amend the legislation before House floor consideration to include language codifying current proportional spending between football and basketball and all other sports. Importantly, this would not represent a new mandate for schools. Schools have voluntarily established and followed their own spending ratios for decades, an approach that has enabled the sustainability of the Olympic sports we have today. Codifying current spending levels would simply safeguard a proven model that has supported the sports in which the majority of student-athletes participate, and help ensure a future of broad-based college sports that is balanced and equitable for all student-athletes.

Sincerely,

American Baseball Coaches Association
American Volleyball Coaches Association
Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches
College Gymnastics Association
College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America
Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association
Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association
Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association
Intercollegiate Tennis Association
Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association
National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association
National Fastpitch Coaches Association
National Field Hockey Coaches Association
National Intercollegiate Rugby Association
National Wrestling Coaches Association
United Soccer Coaches College Coaches
U.S. Fencing Coaches' Association
U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association
Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association
Women's Golf Coaches Association

cc:

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
House Majority Leader Steve Scalise
House Majority Whip Tom Emmer
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Whip Katherine Clark

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[1] Jeffrey D. Armstrong, "Cal Poly Discontinues Swimming & Diving – Letter from President Armstrong on Budget and Organizational Changes," California Polytechnic State University, March 7, 2025