



Statement of Support from the Covenant College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene,

My name is Pierce Smith, and I am a current men's basketball student-athlete at Covenant College, representing the student-athletes of Covenant College at the Division III level. Covenant College is located in Lookout Mountain, Georgia.

On behalf of Covenant College SAAC, I write in strong support of the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act. This legislation is a critical step toward protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and overall well-being.

As a current student-athlete, I know firsthand that my coaches and staff are so much more than employers. They serve as mentors, role models, and trusted supporters. They invest in us not only athletically, but also academically, professionally, and personally. Preserving this type of relationship is vital to the student-athlete experience. The SCORE Act ensures that student-athletes continue to be guided by mentors who shape us into well-rounded citizens, rather than managed as employees.

The bill affirms a foundational principle: student-athletes are students above all else, not employees. Covenant College SAAC strongly supports provisions in the SCORE Act that:

- Broaden access to NIL opportunities and agent representation
- Protect privacy and promote financial transparency
- Guarantee comprehensive medical care and support for degree completion
- Provide essential health, safety, and educational resources

Most importantly, the SCORE Act preserves the non-employment status of student-athletes, ensuring that our primary identity remains that of a student pursuing higher education while competing in athletics. It fosters fairness, consistency, and a student-centered approach to collegiate athletics nationwide.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to improving the college athletics experience. I am proud to lend my voice in support of this legislation and the future it represents for student-athletes.

Kindest regards,



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Pierce Smith
Covenant College SAAC President
Men's Basketball Student-Athlete