

Statement of Support from the Great American Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(GAC SAAC)

Dear Esteemed Members of Congress,

My name is Avery Hellmuth, and I am a former women's volleyball student-athlete at Oklahoma Baptist University, representing the student-athletes of the Great American Conference at the Division II level. The GAC stretches its regional mark across Oklahoma and Arkansas.

We at the Great American 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 recently graduated student-athlete, I know firsthand the hard work and dedication that go into being a student-athlete. We are so much more than an employee status would indicate. We have a unique opportunity to play the sport we love at an elite level while also pursuing excellence in the classroom. It's this life in the balance approach that makes the experience of a DII student-athlete one of a kind. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for our holistic development.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The GAC 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. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards for student-athletes nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Great American Conference SAAC,

Avery Hellmuth

GAC NCAA Division II SAAC Representative

NCAA Division II SAAC Chair

Former Women's Volleyball Student-Athlete

Oklahoma Baptist University

Along with

Jack Chiasson, University of Arkansas Monticello

De'Rion Crooms, Arkansas Tech University

Lindsey Mauppin, East Central University

Hudson Vaughn, Harding University
Bobbi Bazzle, Henderson State University
Zach Thomas, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Aubrey Marjason, Oklahoma Baptist University
Hunter Reck, Ouachita Baptist University
Damien Brown, Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Kassie Rhodes, Southern Arkansas University
Lillian Savage, Southern Nazarene University
Cameron Turner, Southwestern Oklahoma State University