

GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

Statement of Support from the Gulf South Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Representative Kustoff,

My name is Ryan Lovelace, and I am a cross-country/track and field student-athlete at Lee University, representing the student-athletes of the Gulf South Conference at the Division II level. The GSC stretches its regional mark across Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. **I am reaching out to you on behalf of student-athletes at Union University, a Gulf South Conference institution located in your district.**

The student-athletes of the Gulf South 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 fourth-year 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. This life in the balance approach has taught me countless valuable life lessons beyond the classroom, track, or cross-country course. 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 student athletes of the Gulf South Conference strongly support 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,



Ryan Lovelace

Gulf South Conference Division II SAAC Representative

Lee University SAAC Representative

Cross-Country/Track & Field Student-Athlete

On behalf of,



Alexa Douthitt

University of Alabama in Huntsville SAAC Representative
Softball Student-Athlete



Paige Taylor

University of Auburn at Montgomery SAAC Representative
Women's Basketball Student-Athlete



Marcus Moses

Christian Brothers University SAAC Representative
Cross-Country/Track & Field Student-Athlete



Laney Daigrepoint

Delta State University SAAC Representative
Softball Student-Athlete



Bella Myers

Mississippi College SAAC Representative
Softball Student-Athlete



Tyson Sexton

University of Montevallo SAAC Representative
Men's Basketball Student-Athlete



Skias Hainline

Trevecca Nazarene University SAAC Representative
Volleyball Student-Athlete



Mallory Hildebrand

Union University SAAC Representative
Softball Student-Athlete



Erin Whalen

Valdosta State University SAAC Representative
Women's Basketball Student-Athlete



Kendall LaCoste

University of West Alabama SAAC Representative
Women's Basketball Student-Athlete



Aubrey Klausner

West Florida University SAAC Representative
Women's Swim & Dive Student-Athlete