



September 4, 2025

Dear Chairwoman Clarke & Members of the Congressional Black Caucus,

As the Commissioners of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), we are writing to express our collective support for Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements (SCORE) Act and urge for its bipartisan support and passage.

As you know, the CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, and SWAC represent Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) within Divisions I and II of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). As members of the NCAA, our four Conferences include 48 institutions (see appendix for full list) spanning nearly twenty states. We serve 15,000 student athletes, and bring together millions of HBCU alumni, fans, and communities in celebration of our rich history and traditions.

Prior to the SCORE Act's jurisdictional committee consideration in the House of Representatives, we spent the past few years meeting with a broad spectrum of Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Members and their staffs to provide education on our core issues and share the HBCU sports communities' urgent need for federal legislation that can adequately address the challenges we are facing in our respective athletic conferences. While that initial engagement was critical for establishing a productive dialogue about how Congress can find consensus on comprehensive solutions, the SCORE Act now provides Members an active opportunity to tangibly support athletics at HBCUs at this pivotal juncture.

Despite a range of historic recent changes in collegiate sports designed to support student-athletes, opportunities for predominantly Black students at our institutions are still at risk. Potential regulatory decisions and excessively egregious litigation threaten to change the face of college sports should the status quo environment go unaddressed. Specifically, there continues to be a growing patchwork of state laws impacting college sports and creating disparities and confusion among our prospective and current student-athletes. The various state laws and onslaught of court cases have made it difficult for conferences like ours to continue to provide developmental and competitive opportunities for member institutions and student-athletes. Retention is also a challenge within our HBCU student athlete population due to increasing differences in state laws and legal activity that have all but eliminated a level playing field.

As the landscape of collegiate athletics continues to evolve, now is the time to act and establish a national framework of core principles and practices that can help standardize the intercollegiate

experience for institutions and student athletes alike. As such, we believe the SCORE Act effectively addresses our following top priorities:

1. The SCORE Act protects future opportunities for student-athletes by ensuring they are not employees of their institutions. Like the majority of our mid-major and Division II peers, most HBCUs do not generate significant revenue and rely heavily on school appropriated funds and donations. Classifying student-athletes as employees would pose an existential threat to the sustainability of our athletic programs and schools, and in some cases could lead to the elimination of intercollegiate athletics.
2. The SCORE Act provides limited liability protections for associations and conferences like ours to make and enforce reasonable uniform rules
3. The SCORE Act preempts the current patchwork of state laws to create a nationwide clear set of shared rules.

In closing, as we all work collectively to drive better outcomes for student athletes at HBCUs and better outcomes for the broader HBCU community we urge Members of the CBC to consider co-sponsoring this bill and supporting its passage on the House floor. Should you have any additional clarifying questions, we welcome the opportunity to engage with you or your staff further. Thank you for the consideration.

Kind regards,



Commissioner Jacquie McWilliams
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference



Commissioner Anthony Holloman
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference



Commissioner Sonja Stills
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference



Commissioner Charles McClelland
Southwestern Athletic Conference

CC:

Rep. Troy Carter, CBC 1st Vice Chair (LA-02)

Rep. Lucy McBath, CBC 2nd Vice Chair (GA-06)

Rep. Marilyn Strickland, CBC Secretary (WA-10)

Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, CBC Whip (CA-37)

Rep. Jennifer McClellan, CBC Parliamentarian (VA-04)

Rep. Gabe Amo, CBC Board Member-at-Large (RI-01)

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)

Rep. Maxine Waters (CA-43)

Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA-02)

Rep. James E. Clyburn (SC-06)

Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-03)

Rep. Benne Thompson (MS-02)

Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL-07)

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY-05)

Rep. David Scott (GA-13)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05)

Rep. Al Green (TX-09)

Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-04)

Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-04)

Rep. André Carson (IN-07)

Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24)

Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07)

Rep. Joyce Beatty (OH-03)

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, House Democratic Leader (NY-08)

Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33)

Rep. Robin Kelly (IL-02)

Sen. Cory Booker (NJ)

Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12)
Del. Stacey Plasket (VI)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)
Rep. Dwight Evans (PA-02)
Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)
Rep. Steven Horsford (NV-04)
Rep. Jahana Hayes (CT-05)
Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-02)
Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-05)
Rep. Ayanna Pressley (MA-07)
Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
Rep. Kweisi Mfume (MD-07)
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Rep. Glenn Ivey (MD-04)
Rep. Jonathan Jackson (IL-01)
Rep. Summer Lee (PA-12)
Rep. Emilia Sykes (OH-13)
Rep. LaMonica McIver (NJ-10)
Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (MD)
Rep. Wesley Bell (MO-01)

Rep. Janelle Bynum (OR-05)

Rep. Herb Conaway (NJ-03)

Rep. Cleo Fields (LA-06)

Rep. Shomari Figures (AL-02)

Rep. Lateefah Simon (CA-12)

APPENDIX:

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Member Institutions:

- Bluefield State University
- Bowie State University
- Claflin University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Lincoln University
- Livingstone College
- Shaw University
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Union University
- Winston-Salem State University

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Member Institutions:

- Abany State University
- Allen University
- Benedict College
- Central State University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Edward Waters University
- Fort Valley State University
- Kentucky State University
- Lane College
- LeMoyne-Owen College
- Miles College
- Morehouse College
- Savannah State University
- Spring College
- Tuskegee University

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MIEC) Member Institutions:

- Coppin State University
- Delaware State University
- Howard University
- Morgan State University
- Norfolk State University
- North Carolina Central University
- South Carolina State University
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Member Institutions:

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Alcorn State University
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Florida A&M University
- Grambling State University
- Jackson State University
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Southern University and A&M College
- Texas Southern University
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.