



Statement of Support from the Ivy League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Esteemed members of both the Education and Workforce & the Energy and Commerce Committees,

My name is Daniella Henderson, and I am a current women's cross country and track & field student-athlete at Yale University, representing the student-athletes of the Ivy League Conference at the Division I level. Between the eight institutions in our conference, the Ivy League stretches its regional mark across seven states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

We at the Ivy League 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 current student-athlete, I have experienced firsthand the impact of a healthy, supportive, and above all, authentic relationship between athletes and their coaching staff. Coaches often feel like second parents—trusted guides as we navigate the challenges of balancing rigorous academics, athletics, and personal life. Protecting the integrity of a relationship built on mentorship and guidance rather than personal incentives or outside influence is of utmost importance. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for their holistic development.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. Ivy League 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. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the progress of college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Ivy League Conference SAAC,

Daniella Henderson

Ivy League NCAA Division I Representative
Current Women's Cross Country/Track & Field Athlete
Yale University