



Statement of Support from the Little East Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Dear Members of Congress

My name is Luana Batista Soares, I am a women's lacrosse student-athlete and I serve as the Little East Conference's SAAC Representative, elected to represent the voice of thousands of Division III student-athletes across our nine member institutions. Our conference spans institutions in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, giving me the privilege of representing student-athletes from across the region.

We at the Little East Conference strongly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act). Unlike Division I or II, Division III institutions do not offer athletic scholarships, and our model is built on the belief that student-athletes are students first. The SCORE Act protects this model while modernizing college athletics by preserving our non-employment status, establishing consistent NIL standards nationwide, and supporting student-athlete health, safety, and academic success.

Division III student-athletes do not view athletic participation as employment, we compete because it enriches our college experience. Simultaneously, our institutions are not built to operate under an employment model, financially or in mission. We are committed students who compete at a high level, and this legislation allows us to continue doing so in a stable, fair, and student-centered environment.

On behalf of Division III student-athletes in the Eastern Connecticut State University, Keene State College, Plymouth State University, Rhode Island College, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, University of Southern Maine, Vermont State University at Castleton, and Western Connecticut State University, I urge your support for the SCORE Act. This bill ensures that student-athletes in your communities can continue to thrive as students foremost.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving college athletics for all student-athletes.

National Representative, Luana Batista Soares

Al Bean| LEC Commissioner

Darryl Konicki| LEC Associate Commissioner