



Statement of Support from the Maryville College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Representative Tim Burchett,

My name is Lauren Myers, and I am a current women's cross country and track and field student-athlete at Maryville College. I am on the DIII Collegiate Conference of the South SAAC board representing student-athletes of Maryville College, located in Maryville, Tennessee.

We at Maryville College 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 know from firsthand experience that my amazing coaches and staff are so much more than an employer. They have been role models to me and my teammates, even supporting us in their personal time when we are struggling academically, athletically, and in our personal lives. Ensuring this type of relationship is paramount to the student-athlete experience. It is about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, to become well-rounded citizens. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for the holistic development of student-athletes.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. Maryville College, along with 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 time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

Maryville College SAAC president,

Lauren Myers
Current Women's XC/TF Athlete
Maryville College