



Statement of Support from the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC

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

My name is Quinn Millerd, and I am a current men's soccer student-athlete at Drake University, representing the student-athletes of the Missouri Valley Conference at the Division I level. The Missouri Valley Conference stretches its regional mark across 5 states, including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

As the Missouri Valley Conference chair for two years and current DI SAAC representative, I 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. Being a current student athlete and young man, my coaches continue to be the gentle hand that helps me navigate the world around. Losing the opportunity to build a real personal connection to the people you spend the most time around as a student athlete would be a detriment to college athletics. If they became my employer, how could I go to them and ask about life struggles? If they were my employer, would they even care about my mental well-being? Sport helps us grow as people. Yes, we all want to perform and win as a group, but without a player-to-coach relationship, how are we supposed to see them as a part of the team? The SCORE Act protects this relationship while helping us all connect and create a winning environment in and out of competition. The togetherness of our coaches and players is how Congress should act, not as an employer but as a team.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. As the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC representative and former chair, I do not speak directly for everyone. Still, I believe I echo their sentiment that would 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. 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 I hope my sentiment goes to heart when you consider your vote on the SCORE Act



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Kindest regards,

As the representative of the Missouri Valley Conference SAAC,

Quinn Millerd
Men's Soccer Student Athlete
Drake University
Missouri Valley Conference