



Today's Scholar-Athletes ~ Tomorrow's Leaders

One Bethlehem Plaza • Suite 800 • Bethlehem, PA 18018 • (610) 289-1950

July 22, 2025

Dear Distinguished Congressional Members:

On behalf of the Council of Presidents of the Patriot League, I write in support of the SCORE Act (H.R. 4312). The bill passed out of subcommittee last week and we understand that the House Education & Workforce and Energy & Commerce Committees will hold mark-ups tomorrow, July 23.

The Patriot League is a Division I conference composed of ten institutions. We are a broad-based conference sponsoring 24 sports and providing athletic opportunities for over 8,200 student-athletes. The League is a leader in academic success and graduation metrics, including boasting the highest student-athlete retention rate in Division I. Our model supports competition at the highest level, while prioritizing the ability of our student-athletes to fully engage in academic pursuits and campus life.

The SCORE Act effectively addresses our primary concern of ensuring student-athletes are not considered employees of our institutions. We also support the bill's narrowly tailored protections that allow college athletics to make and enforce reasonable, national rules in areas such as academic and athletic eligibility, as well as the provisions that preempt the patchwork of state Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and other laws.

There are some technical provisions in the bill that may need to be amended to ensure student-athletes and schools are not inadvertently impacted. These include provisions related to salary thresholds that determine which schools the bill's requirements apply to, and requirements around the provision of legal advice and tax-related counsel to student-athletes.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you and/or your staff. If you would like to schedule a meeting, I can be reached at jheppel@patriotleague.com or 202-379-6044. I look forward to the opportunity to share any feedback that may help make this already strong bill even stronger.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Heppel
Commissioner