

Statement of Support from the Piedmont University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Dear Representative Andrew S. Clyde,

My name is Erin Donovan, and I am a current member of the women's golf team at Piedmont University. Piedmont University is located in Demorest, a small town in northeast Georgia.

We at Piedmont SAAC 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 student-athlete in a relatively small sport, I understand the challenges of receiving lower-quality treatment and limited access to certain tools that other sports often receive. This is usually frustrating because although services like athletic training at golf events may seem redundant, it is necessary for most student-athletes. By providing equitable treatment and access to resources across all sports, student-athletes' representation in NCAA athletics is fulfilled. 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. Piedmont 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,

Representing Piedmont Student-Athletes,

Erin Donovan Current Women's Golfer Piedmont University