

September 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Donald Bacon, Nebraska – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Michael Bennet, Colorado – United States Senate
 The Honorable Lauren Boebert, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Jeff Crank, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Jason Crow, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable John Curtis, Utah – United States Senate
 The Honorable Diana DeGette, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Gabe Evans, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez, New Mexico – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Deb Fischer, Nebraska – United States Senate
 The Honorable Mike Flood, Nebraska – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Martin Heinrich, New Mexico – United States Senate
 The Honorable John Hickenlooper, Colorado – United States Senate
 The Honorable Jeff Hurd, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Dusty Johnson, South Dakota – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Mike Kennedy, Utah – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Mike Lee, Utah – United States Senate
 The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, New Mexico – United States Senate
 The Honorable Celeste Maloy, Utah – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Blake Moore, Utah – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Burgess Owens, Utah – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Brittany Pettersen, Colorado – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Pete Ricketts, Nebraska – United States Senate
 The Honorable Mike Rounds, South Dakota – United States Senate
 The Honorable Adrian Smith, Nebraska – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable Melanie Ann Stansbury, New Mexico – United States House of Representatives
 The Honorable John Thune, South Dakota – United States Senate
 The Honorable Gabriel Vasquez, New Mexico – United States House of Representatives

Dear Distinguished Congressional Representatives:

As leaders of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC) at our 15 member institutions, and on behalf of nearly 6,000 student-athletes in the RMAC, we are reaching out to request your support for 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.

RMAC SAAC representatives support this legislation because it protects women's sports and Olympic sports, standardizes national NIL activity, provides protections against predatory NIL agents, and forces greater financial transparency around the funding of collegiate athletics. The SCORE Act also supports our education and degree completion by encouraging increased access to academic and career counseling for student-athletes, providing robust mental health services and education, and improving post-enrollment benefits for injured student-athletes.

Above all, we recognize the threat of classifying student-athletes as employees of their schools and consider the SCORE Act to be the next step in preserving the NCAA student-athlete experience, specifically at the Division II level.

“My time at UCCS has been filled with some unbelievable experiences – experiences that would not have happened if my focus was aimed at financial gain. Being a student-athlete highlights the concept of amateurism, which preserves the student-athlete focus on education, personal growth, and a love for the game. I believe that this time of our lives should be used as a pathway, rather than a stepping stone, to help us reach our ultimate career goals and dreams. Maintaining amateur status for student-athletes encourages us to balance academics with athletics and ultimately prepares us for our future, both on and off the field.

Specifically, on our campus, classifying athletes as full-time employees would destroy campus life. There are numerous scenarios where student-athletes engage with other students on campus and make them feel a part of something special. Taking this away would lead to a divide between athletes and the general student body, threatening the opportunity to represent our schools and everyone a part of it.”

- **Sean Belzer, RMAC Division II National SAAC Representative**

“Being a student-athlete requires a balance in both academics and athletics, while maintaining a healthy social life. There is already a high standard for how we must perform within the classroom, specifically at Colorado School of Mines, to ensure we can achieve our goals on the field, court, track, pool, and mat.

By supporting the SCORE Act, you are supporting student-athletes nationwide by allowing us to maintain our proud title as “student-athletes,” ensuring that we can make a name for ourselves and our schools, and allowing for opportunities in all sports to be protected. As you consider what is best for student-athletes, it is essential to focus on making changes that support all student-athletes, regardless of their level of competition, without hindering the opportunities that can change our lives forever.”

- **Yahir Chairez-Salazar, At-Large Division II National SAAC Representative**

“Division II athletics have made a significant impact on my life. The ability to continue my athletic and academic career, as well as make a positive impact on my community, has been something for which I am deeply grateful. I have been able to maintain balance and stability in my life because of the activities I’ve been involved in – most importantly, being a student first.

Under the employee model, I would become a dispensable athlete and would not have been recruited or hired by any college. Most Division II schools, including Adams State, have student populations under 10,000 students. These schools cannot feasibly pay every student-athlete on campus to compete, thereby diminishing opportunities and quickly shattering dreams.

The amateur model the NCAA has upheld in the past has and continues to give underdogs, like myself, a chance. The SCORE Act enables competition at all levels of play, not just for larger schools with the financial resources to compensate athletes. As student-athletes at the Division II level, we support the SCORE Act because it maintains our amateur status and enables us to have the college experience that all students deserve.”

- **Jack Faczak, RMAC SAAC Chair**

We hope you will stand with student-athletes across all three NCAA Divisions in supporting this bill. Should you wish to discuss this topic further or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the RMAC's Interim Commissioner Lexie Vernon at 309-335-4079 or lvernon@rmacsports.org.

Kind regards from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee,

Jack Faczak
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Senior, Women's Swimming

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Cc: Mr. Charlie Baker – President, National Collegiate Athletic Association
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