

Statement of Support from the South Atlantic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
(SAC SAAC)

Dear Esteemed Members of Congress,

My name is Abbie McCants, and I am a softball student-athlete at Coker University, representing the student-athletes of the South Atlantic Conference at the Division II level. The SAC stretches its regional mark across North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

We at the South Atlantic Conference 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, I know firsthand the hard work and dedication that go into being a student-athlete. We are so much more than an employee status would indicate. We have a unique opportunity to play the sport we love at an elite level while also pursuing excellence in the classroom. It's this life in the balance approach that makes the experience of a DII student-athlete one of a kind. The SCORE Act protects student-athletes and seeks to create an environment that will allow for our holistic development.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The SAC 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. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards for student-athletes nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

Kindest regards,

As the representative of the South Atlantic Conference SAAC,

Abbie McCants

SAC NCAA Division II SAAC Representative
Softball Student-Athlete
Coker University

Along with

Jackie Tiongco, Anderson University
Hayden Wright, Carson-Newman University
Jacy Noble, Catawba College
Kristynnn Knight, Coker University

Avery Zuckerwar, Emory & Henry College
Keagan McCorkle, Lenoir Rhyne University
Rachel Early, Lincoln Memorial University
Savannah Stanish, Mars Hill University
Emma Westbrook, Newberry College
Ayden Lightner, Tusculum University
Matt Strong, The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Will Pape, Wingate University