



Statement of Support from the Southern Athletic Association Student-Athlete Advisory
Committee (SAAC)

Dear Representative Nikema Williams,

My name is Kimberly Lila, and I am a current women's swim student-athlete at Berry College, representing the student-athletes of the Southern Athletic Association at the Division III level. The Southern Athletic Association stretches its regional mark across five states, including Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

We at the Southern Athletic Association 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 current student-athlete, I know firsthand that my coaches and staff are so much more than an employer. They have been role models to me and my teammates, even supporting us in their personal time when we are struggling academically, athletically, and in our personal lives. Ensuring this type of relationship is paramount to the student-athlete experience. It is about having mentors who guide us, not just direct us, to become well-rounded citizens. 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. Southern Athletic Association 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,

As the National Representative of the Southern Athletic Association SAAC,

Kimberly Lila
SAA National SAAC Division III Representative
Current Women's Swim Athlete



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