



Statement of Support from the Sunshine State Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Dear Esteemed members of Congress,

My name is Mario Kirkov, and I am a men's tennis student-athlete at Eckerd College, representing the student-athletes of the Sunshine State Conference at the Division II level. The SSC stretches its regional mark across Florida.

We at Sunshine State 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 current student-athlete, I know firsthand the hard work and dedication that goes 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. Sunshine State Conference 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 Sunshine State Conference SAAC,

Mario Kirkov
SSC NCAA Division II SAAC Representative
Men's Tennis Student-Athlete
Eckerd College

Harper Bunn
Softball Student-Athlete
Barry University SAAC President

Nyla Muskovin
Women's Volleyball Student-Athlete
Eckerd College SAAC President

Leah Oberkehr
Softball Student-Athlete
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University SAAC President

Nicole Russell
Women's Volleyball Student-Athlete
Florida Southern College SAAC President

Kaitlin Sinkler
Women's Soccer Student-Athlete
Florida Institute of Technology SAAC President

Juliana Imbuzeiro
Women's Volleyball Student-Athlete
Nova Southeastern University SAAC President

Baker Reale
Men's Lacrosse Student-Athlete
Palm Beach Atlantic University SAAC President

Angel Williams
Beach Volleyball Student-Athlete
University of Tampa SAAC President

Stella Fruijtier
Women's Tennis Student-Athlete
Rollins College SAAC President

Kathy Kroupa
Lynn University SAAC Advisor

Jesse Vervelde
Saint Leo University SAAC Advisor