



June 12, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senate
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (DII SAAC) fully supports the NCAA Board of Governors Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement and Action in ensuring that the current landscape of college athletics continues to benefit student-athletes above all else. We want to emphasize that we are not advocating for college athletics to remain unchanged. DII SAAC encourages the continued evolution of college athletics with an emphasis on the student-athlete voice being critical in identifying the ever-changing needs of student-athletes. Congress can provide federal legislative guidance to ensure the NCAA can provide college athletes with one of the most meaningful experiences of their lives.

DII SAAC represents nearly 120,000 student-athletes across 23 conferences and two countries. We recognize that it is our responsibility to act as representatives on behalf of all student-athletes

and act in the best interests of current and future Division II athletes. DII SAAC has the unique ability to vote on legislative changes within Division II. We are committed to using our voices to make Division II the best it can be and represent our fellow student-athletes proudly.

Division II operates on the “Life in the Balance” philosophy. Division II uses a partial scholarship model that allows student-athletes access to athletics and academic aid. Division II encourages our student-athletes to partake in experiences outside of athletics. We proudly highlight the Division II commitment to community engagement and partnerships with organizations like Make-A-Wish and Team IMPACT. Through a balanced college experience, student-athletes gain valuable personal and professional experiences that can be applied throughout their time after the final competition has ended.

When the new NCAA constitution was approved in 2022, student-athletes in all three divisions were adamant about maintaining the label “student-athletes.” We take pride in being labeled as “students” first and foremost, and “athletes.” Division II encourages student-athletes to succeed both in their sport and in the classroom. On average, Division II student-athletes have a higher graduation rate than the general student body. The choice of language was purposeful to ensure that student-athletes are considered as such. However, recent legal challenges may infringe on our ability to be considered student-athletes. DII SAAC believes that changes – such as the implementation of employment models – could significantly impact the experiences of our student-athletes. We applaud the work elected officials are doing to help guide new endeavors for college athletes, such as NIL legislation. We want to affirm that while the landscape of college athletics may be shifting, we want to remain as “student-athletes” and not employees. The experiences we are afforded through Division II are irreplaceable, and by the implementation of employment models into college athletics, we risk losing all that makes being a “student-athlete” so impactful.

DII SAAC is asking Congress to consider maintaining student-athlete status as its own classification rather than reclassifying us as employees and to continue to monitor the ways in which the current experiences of student-athletes can be improved. We encourage Congress to regard this statement as a representation of the voice of thousands of student-athletes. This is our voice, and we want to ensure that we are heard at all levels where decisions about college athletics are being made. DII SAAC, on behalf of nearly 120,000 student-athletes, thanks Congress for its continued support of the NCAA and student-athletes everywhere.

Kind regards,



Emma Kramer

Simon Fraser University

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Chair

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University
Eddie Baker, The College of Saint Rose
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware)
Michaela Boyd, Azusa Pacific University
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University
Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University
Molly Hansen, University of Montevallo
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University

Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University
Myles Jackson, Queens College (New York)
Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University
Tanner Olson, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Corbin Thaete, California State University, San Marcos
Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University