



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
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The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
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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 III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee 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 more than anything else.

Of the NCAA's half a million student-athletes, approximately 200,000 participate in Division III across 439 institutions and 44 conferences — making it the largest division in the NCAA. DIII SAAC is the voice of our 200,000 fellow student-athletes who are excelling in the classroom, on their teams and in their local communities. Division III institutions help develop student-athlete potential through a holistic educational approach that include rigorous academics, competitive athletics without athletics scholarships, and opportunities to pursue other interests and passions.

We recognize that it is our responsibility to function as representatives on behalf of all student-athletes and act in the best interests of current and future Division III athletes. We want to emphasize that we are not advocating for college athletics to remain unchanged. Rather, DIII SAAC encourages Congress to provide federal legislative guidance to guarantee the NCAA can provide college student-athletes with one of the most significant experiences of their lives.

DIII SAAC is asking Congress to preserve student-athlete status and not reclassifying us as employees. We encourage Congress to continue to monitor the landscape of college athletics and aid in ways to improve and protect the experiences of student-athletes.

By protecting our experience, you ensure the continuation of Division III athletics for generations to come. The student-athlete experience provides so much that cannot be found elsewhere. By providing a protection and ensuring student-athletes are not considered employees, you preserve the experience and development of thousands of student-athletes.

The student-athletes who represent our 439 institutions embrace the Division III experience and what makes Division III distinct:

- Division III student-athletes do not get athletically related financial aid (no athletics scholarships).
- The Division III philosophy statement maintains that student-athletes are not treated differently from other members of the student body. We have no desire to have our student-athlete status formalized in any way that would constitute an employment relationship and change how we look compared with our peers.
- We are grateful for the name, image and likeness opportunities now afforded but remain confused about how they apply in different states. Division III consists of smaller institutions with fewer staff, which makes it difficult to navigate the numerous state rules. Consistent NIL rules would benefit every division.
- Division III student-athletes play for the love of the game and for the community it provides, and many athletes feel as though their sport is not only a vital part of the college experience, but also of their personal identity.
- Being a Division III student-athlete is an experience like no other. Many of us chose Division III to receive a rigorous education where athletics is intertwined into our lives with the opportunity to play multiple sports, participate in internships, study abroad and actively participate in our campus community while taking advantage of professional development opportunities for our life after college.

We applaud the work elected officials are doing currently to help guide new endeavors for college athletes, such as NIL legislation and the realization that more needs to be done. Please regard this letter as a representation of the voice of the 200,000 student-athletes who represent Division III. The student-athlete voice is strong, and we want to guarantee we are heard at all levels where decisions about college athletics are being made. We thank Congress for its collaboration with the NCAA and student-athletes everywhere.

Sincerely,



Vaishnav Siddapureddy
Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Chair
Pomona-Pitzer Colleges



John "Jack" Langan
Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Vice Chair
Cornell College

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