

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Scalise, and Majority Whip Emmer,

We write to express our concerns with the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668) and to respectfully request that the legislation be amended before it is considered for final passage by the House of Representatives.

We recognize that the Protect College Sports Act contains several important and constructive provisions, and we agree that Congress has an important role to play in bringing greater clarity and consistency to the rapidly changing landscape of college athletics. Student-athletes, universities, and fans would all benefit from clear national standards governing name, image, and likeness (NIL), eligibility, and the responsibilities of athletic programs.

At the same time, we are concerned that the Protect College Sports Act goes beyond establishing reasonable national standards and imposes unnecessary federal restrictions on universities, athletic conferences, and student-athletes. These provisions could have significant and unintended consequences for the future of college athletics.

We are particularly concerned about Section 205 which caps membership in the Power Four conferences at 20 institutions and requires any institution that leaves one of those conferences to spend 3 years as an independent before joining another. We believe Congress should carefully consider whether federal law should be dictating the size or composition of athletic conferences,

or the terms under which universities may join or leave them – decisions that have traditionally, and appropriately, been left to universities and conferences themselves.

Conference membership should remain a matter for universities and conferences based on a range of factors including the needs of their student-athletes, geography, competition, media agreements, academic partnerships and relationships, and financial considerations. These are fundamentally institutional decisions and circumstances can vary significantly from one institution and conference to another.

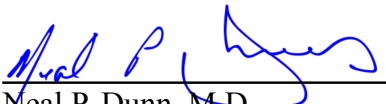
A federal cap on conference membership, coupled with restrictions on an institution's ability to move conferences, risks locking in today's college athletics structure without any flexibility, even when a move would otherwise be prudent for an institution and their student-athletes. Doing so effectively freezes the market and eliminates mobility; such restrictions could have significant consequences as institutions navigate evolving media markets, conference structures, competitive dynamics, and financial realities. Universities would be limited in their ability to respond to future opportunities and challenges as the collegiate athletics landscape evolves. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all approach in perpetuity, Congress should provide a clear national framework while preserving sufficient flexibility for university leaders to make decisions that best serve their institutions and student-athletes.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the conference membership provisions in the legislation be removed or, at a minimum, substantially amended to provide greater flexibility before the legislation is considered for final passage by the House. The legislation should ensure that universities retain the ability to respond to changing circumstances and be able to make institutional decisions in the best interest of their athletes.

We have an opportunity to provide much-needed certainty for college athletics. We owe it to the thousands of student-athletes, as well as the millions of fans and alumni across the country, to get this right.

We stand ready to work with House Leadership and our colleagues to develop and advance legislation that provides meaningful protections for student-athletes, establishes greater certainty for college athletics, and preserves the ability of our universities to make decisions in the best interests of their students and institutions.

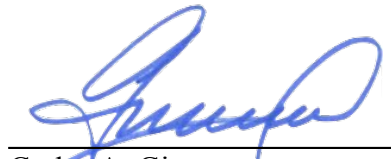
Sincerely,



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



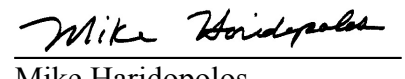
Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



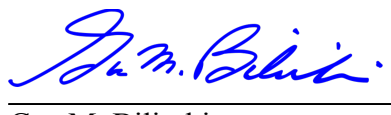
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Jimmy Patronis
Member of Congress



Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



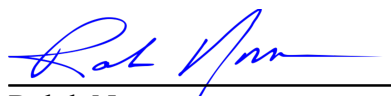
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress



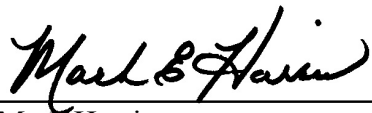
Cory Mills
Member of Congress



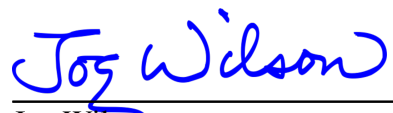
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress



Mark Harris
Member of Congress



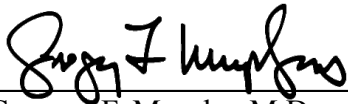
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Tim Moore
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



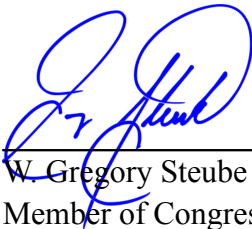
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Addison P. McDowell
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress