

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 17, 2023

Mr. Charlie Baker  
President  
The National Collegiate Athletic Association  
700 West Washington Street  
P.O. Box 7110  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear President Baker:

It has come to our concerned attention that during the week of July 31st, 2023, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) made a decision to punish Darrell Jackson Jr. for moving closer to his ailing mother while he completes his collegiate athlete experience.

Darrell first signed with the University of Maryland before transferring to the University of Miami in his home state of Florida where he started in 11 games. However, due to the failing health of his mother, Darrell announced his decision to transfer to Florida State University on December 8th, 2022, in order to be closer to his family. Darrell officially enrolled at Florida State University on January 9th, 2023.

On January 11th, 2023, over a month after Darrell made a decision to transfer to Florida State and days after he officially enrolled, the NCAA formalized rules to significantly tighten certain criteria as it pertains to student athletes' eligibility in transferring to another institution. Based on this new criteria provided after Darrell enrolled at his new school, the NCAA denied Darrell's hardship waiver.

According to the homepage of its website, the NCAA is "dedicated to the well-being and lifelong success of college athletes." We express concern that during a time of unprecedented change in college sports that the organization charged with the well being and lifelong success of college athletes would provide a ruling that is self-evidently contradictory to its own mission statement. We echo Senator Marco Rubio's recent letter that this decision sends the wrong message to our student athletes who choose to put family first when dealing with the health crisis of a loved one.

We therefore urge that you reconsider Darrell's hardship waiver, and we respectfully look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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



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Maria Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Carlos Gimenez  
Member of Congress



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Cory Mills  
Member of Congress



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Laurel Lee  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress