



August 24, 2026

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kelly and Gallego:

We write on behalf of Arizona State University and the University of Arizona to urge you to support the Protect College Sports Act when it comes before the Senate in September. As the presidents of Arizona's two largest public research universities, we believe Congress has an important opportunity to establish a fair, transparent, and durable national framework for college athletics that protects student-athletes, preserves their opportunities, and provides the stability necessary for universities to continue investing in their academic, athletic, and personal success.

The need for congressional action is clear. College athletics has changed profoundly in recent years, creating important opportunities for student-athletes, including the ability to benefit financially from their name, image, and likeness. At the same time, the absence of consistent national standards has produced a fragmented system governed by conflicting state laws. Student-athletes shouldn't bear the burden of navigating that uncertainty, nor should their rights and protections depend upon the state in which they attend college. Universities should compete based on the strength of their programs and their ability to develop students academically and athletically, not on differences in state law or gaps in an uncertain regulatory system.

The Protect College Sports Act offers a meaningful path forward. The legislation has continued to evolve through bipartisan negotiations and engagement with universities, conferences, student-athletes, and other stakeholders. Recent revisions strengthen the framework governing compensation and enforcement while preserving legitimate commercial NIL opportunities. The legislation establishes greater accountability for agents, provides greater predictability surrounding eligibility and transfers while maintaining meaningful mobility, and protects scholarships, medical care, and other benefits provided to student-athletes. The bill creates mechanisms for student-athlete representation, whistleblower protection, and enforcement of their rights. Our responsibility to student-athletes extends to their education, health and wellness, and professional development.

We recognize the ongoing national discussion concerning the economic rights of student-athletes and their status under federal labor law. The Protect College Sports Act does not declare student-athletes as either employees or nonemployees, prohibit collective bargaining, or

foreclose future congressional action. Congress can address the immediate need for enforceable national standards without prejudging broader questions that deserve continued consideration.

For Arizona, the stakes are significant. Arizona State University and the University of Arizona support hundreds of student-athletes across men's and women's sports and have made substantial commitments to their education and support. A consistent national framework will help ensure our universities can compete for championships on a level playing field based on the strength of our programs and our investments in student-athletes.

The benefits extend well beyond our campuses. Intercollegiate athletics attracts visitors, generates economic activity, strengthens the national visibility of our universities and state, and connects communities. Analyses have shown that college athletics in Arizona generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact to Arizona's economy. A national system that allows Arizona's universities to compete fairly and succeed nationally advances the broader economic interests of our state.

With the Senate expected to consider the legislation in September, we respectfully ask for your support in advancing the Protect College Sports Act. The Senate Commerce Committee advanced the legislation on a bipartisan 19-9 vote, and it now has support from all four A4 conferences as well as hundreds of colleges, universities and major organizations across college and professional sports.

We welcome the opportunity for our respective athletic directors, Graham Rossini and Desireé Reed-Francois, to speak directly with you about the impact of these changes on student-athletes and athletic programs at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. They can speak to the challenges under the current system, the investments our universities are making, and why a national framework is critical to protecting those opportunities for the future.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of Arizona and for your consideration of this important issue. We stand ready to work with you as the Senate considers the Protect College Sports Act.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Crow
President
Arizona State University



Suresh Garimella
President
University of Arizona