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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit a student athlete from being considered an employee of an institution, a conference, or an association based on participation in certain intercollegiate athletics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MCCLAIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit a student athlete from being considered an employee of an institution, a conference, or an association based on participation in certain intercollegiate athletics.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Student
5 Athletes’ Economic Freedom Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT STANDINGS.**

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or
8 State law, a student athlete (or former student athlete)

1 may not be considered an employee of an institution, a
2 conference, or an association under any Federal or State
3 law or regulation based on participation of the student
4 athlete (or former student athlete) in a varsity intercolle-
5 giate athletics program or a varsity intercollegiate ath-
6 letics competition, or the existence of rules or require-
7 ments for being a member of any varsity sports team.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “association”
11 means an organization that—

12 (A) has multiple conferences and institu-
13 tions as members;

14 (B) arranges championships for varsity
15 intercollegiate athletics programs;

16 (C) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
17 athletics programs;

18 (D) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
19 athletics competitions; and

20 (E) is not a conference.

21 (2) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference”
22 means an organization that—

23 (A) has multiple institutions as members;

24 (B) sets rules for varsity intercollegiate
25 athletics competitions;

1 (C) arranges championships for varsity
2 intercollegiate athletics programs; and

3 (D) is not an association.

4 (3) INSTITUTION.—The term “institution”
5 means an institution of higher education (as defined
6 in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that sponsors a varsity intercolle-
8 giate athletics program in the United States.

9 (4) STUDENT ATHLETE.—The term “student
10 athlete” means an individual who participates in a
11 varsity intercollegiate athletics program.

12 (5) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
13 COMPETITION.—The term “varsity intercollegiate
14 athletics competition” means a competition involving
15 2 or more varsity intercollegiate athletics programs
16 sponsored by different institutions.

17 (6) VARSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
18 PROGRAM.—The term “varsity intercollegiate ath-
19 letics program” means a team or other program unit
20 of an institution participating in a sport—

21 (A) played at the intercollegiate level;

22 (B) administered by an athletic depart-
23 ment; and

1 (C) for which eligibility requirements for
2 participation by student athletes are established
3 by an association.

4 (7) VARSITY SPORTS TEAM.—The term “varsity
5 sports team”—

6 (A) means a team of student athletes orga-
7 nized by a varsity intercollegiate athletics pro-
8 gram to participate in a varsity intercollegiate
9 athletics competition; and

10 (B) does not include a team that is tradi-
11 tionally characterized as an intramural or club
12 team.