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June 26, 2014

Mr. Mark Emmert
President
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Mr. Emmert:

A National Labor Relations Board Regional Director recently broke with decades of precedent to determine that scholarship football players at Northwestern University are "employees" under the *National Labor Relations Act* and entitled to union representation.¹ The union representational election was held in April; however, the ballots have been impounded, pending review by the full Board. These events have raised important issues concerning the health and safety of student athletes. It is imperative that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and its members lead a determined effort to address the challenges facing student athletes.

On May 8, 2014, I chaired a hearing during which a university president, an athletic director, and a former scholarship football student athlete made clear unionization would hurt rather than help student athletes. However, witnesses raised a number of legitimate concerns surrounding college athletics that merit careful consideration. Patrick Eilers, a former scholarship student athlete at the University of Notre Dame, outlined a number of the leading concerns, including the duration of scholarships, health and insurance benefits, stipends, and the transfer policy.

While unionization will harm rather than help student athletes, I believe the issues raised in the testimony of Mr. Eilers and others suggest student athletes face real challenges that need to be resolved. The committee understands the NCAA is taking steps to address these and other issues to improve college athletes' education and experience. To further inform the committee, please identify all steps taken by the NCAA to address these issues and improve the collegiate experience of student athletes.

¹ 13-RC-121359

Mr. Emmert
June 26, 2014
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Marvin Kaplan or Mandy Schaumburg, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, at (202) 225-7101.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN KLINE

Chairman

Committee on Education and the Workforce