

Thank you for the opportunity to come before this Committee as a representative of Vermont's sole NCAA Division II institution, Saint Michael's College.

We are grateful for the Committee's care and concern regarding this matter and applaud your effort to address the current NCAA regulations surrounding student-athletes use of their name, image and/or likeness (NIL) while enrolled at a college or university.

It is because of you and other state legislators across the country that the NCAA is now actively engaged in this conversation. And, as a result, the general concept of allowing NCAA student-athletes to directly benefit by the use of their name, image or likeness is no longer in dispute. However, the challenge is to develop regulations that ensure a "level playing field" for student-athletes across all three NCAA Divisions.

The NCAA Membership, which is comprised of representatives from all NCAA Division I, II and III colleges and universities, has been charged with drafting comprehensive divisional legislation to address the many complexities associated with providing a narrower and less restrictive definition of amateurism.

The intent of new legislation is to allow for improvements to student-athlete welfare while also permitting the NCAA to effectively support its core educational and amateurism/anti-professionalization goals. The proposed NCAA legislation will be disseminated from each Division's working group to the respective divisional institutions sometime in early September, 2020. The member institutions will then go through a vetting process which will culminate in a final vote during the January, 2021 NCAA National Convention.

Given the NCAA's timeline and commitment to adopt more permissible legislation for student-athletes to benefit by the use of their name, image and/or likeness, we respectfully request that the Vermont Senate Committee on Education consider postponing action on the movement of Bill S.328 until the results of the vote at the NCAA's 2021 convention are known.