

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Member Debbie Dingell

Hearing on “Moving the Goalposts: How NIL is Reshaping College Athletics”

March 4, 2025

Thank you, Ranking Member Pallone.

Before I dive in, I want to echo the Ranking Member. National Institutes of Health funding is vital. I’ve heard from countless researchers in my district who are terrified about what this means for the future of biomedical research in the United States. This action by the Trump administration threatens to undo the progress our nation’s premier research universities have made and will stunt future scientific breakthroughs. I’m hopeful my colleagues will join me to fight for colleges and universities to receive adequate funding from NIH to support their vital research missions.

With today’s hearing on NIL, I want to turn to college sports. College sports are the lifeblood of so many communities across the country. As someone who represents a significant college athlete population — at schools big and small — I am committed to crafting federal legislation that ensures all college athletes are heard, protected, and prioritized.

I’m so lucky to have both the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University in my district — for their phenomenal college athletic programs and for their expertise.

And I want to thank the Chair for holding this hearing. With everything happening in college sports since the last time we convened on this topic, I think it’s only right that we start these conversations early this Congress.

I look forward to working with Chair Bilirakis and other Members of this Committee on federal legislation that both protects and empowers college athletes.

This isn’t just about the top athletes on the Top 40 football and basketball teams. We need to get this right for the more than 500,000 college athletes nationwide.

I yield back.