

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Member Lori Trahan**

*Markup of 2 Bills, Full Committee*

**July 23, 2025**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before we begin, I want to acknowledge the negotiations that have taken place over the past week between members of your team and mine.

Many of the issues that have been discussed extensively in recent days have seen improvement in the ANS.

I believe that's a direct result of the good faith negotiations that have been ongoing since the Subcommittee markup, and I appreciate those efforts.

However, Mr. Chairman, I'm disappointed that the meaningful progress we've made – and could still make – is being undermined by today's rushed markup of the SCORE Act.

I have repeatedly asked to delay this markup to allow negotiations to run their course.

So too has Ranking Member Pallone and many members of this committee.

With more time, we could have brought in more stakeholders, more deeply considered the impacts of the bill on athletes, and invited more Members from both sides of the aisle to engage.

It's truly a shame we couldn't see what a deliberative, bipartisan process looks like.

Instead, we find ourselves debating a bill that still grants too much authority to the NCAA, athletic conferences, and the most powerful institutions – at the expense of college athletes.

It gives them the antitrust exemption they sought...

The preemption of state laws they pushed for...

And the explicit ban on employment status they lobbied hard to secure.

In return, a subset of Division I athletes are granted:

Just three years of health care;

Codification of a right they already have to sign with agents;

And access to tutoring and tax preparation resources.

Without, of course, meaningful ways to even enforce those protections.

That's not a fair trade-off.

And I truly believe that, had this markup been postponed to allow more time for meaningful dialogue – both at the staff and member level – we could have reached a better, more balanced outcome.

That's not just my view.

It's a perspective shared by many of our Democratic colleagues who have been fully engaged on this issue since the bill was introduced earlier this month.

The amendments we plan to offer today are rooted in our genuine desire to produce a college sports bill that strikes the right balance...

One that stabilizes the system but doesn't come at the expense of the hard-fought rights college athletes have won.

It's my hope that our Republican colleagues will give serious consideration to those amendments, reflect on the concerns we've raised, and vote with us in support of college athletes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.