



## Ohio Senate

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-4538 Office  
Antani@ohiosenate.gov

## Committees:

Health - Vice Chair  
Financial Institutions & Technology  
Judiciary  
Transportation  
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee  
Select Committee on Gaming  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

**Niraj Antani**  
State Senator  
6th District

SB 187 Sponsor Testimony  
House State and Local Government Committee  
June 22, 2021

---

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 187, which would allow college athletes to earn compensation for their name, image, and likeness.

Student athletes work hard. They work hard at their academics, and their sport. Yet, currently they don't own their own name, image, or likeness. Their time commitment to their academics and their sport prevents them from being able to hold another job while on their campus. Not every student athlete has a scholarship, and even for those that do, the scholarship covers the cost of attendance, but not necessarily the cost of living. I have heard so many stories of student athletes who spent an evening in a dining hall on the college meal plan, while their friends dined elsewhere off campus that night.

Currently, there is an NCAA rule that prohibits student athletes from earning compensation off of their name, image, or likeness. The bill will prevent any university from enforcing this rule, and affirmatively prohibits any university or intercollegiate athletic association from punishing a student by preventing them from playing their sport or otherwise as a result of receiving compensation from their name, image, or likeness. Therefore, they will be able to receive compensation as a result of their name, image, or likeness. Under the bill, student-athletes will be allowed to receive professional representation. The university is not required to enable or facilitate any endorsement opportunities for student athletes. We do require the student to notify the university of the contracts they enter into, we prohibit them from displaying a conflicting university endorsement during official team activities, and we do restrict them from any endorsements dealing with casinos, alcohol, or tobacco.

This bill is not just about the quarterback of Ohio State or the power forward of the Dayton Flyers getting a Coke or Nike deal, but rather this is about UC's star swimmer who will be able to host a swimming camp at their old high school; it's about the starting Miami baseball pitcher who will be able to do an ad for their hometown auto dealer; and, it's even about the Cleveland State gymnast with Olympic aspirations, who will be able to monetize their large social media following. This bill has the potential to significantly change lives forever. Not every student



## **Ohio Senate**

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-4538 Office  
Antani@ohiosenate.gov

## **Committees:**

Health - Vice Chair  
Financial Institutions & Technology  
Judiciary  
Transportation  
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee  
Select Committee on Gaming  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

## **Niraj Antani**

State Senator  
6th District

athlete makes it to the pros; and especially for those that don't, this bill will change the financial future for those student athletes and their families forever. This bill will change lives.

16 other states have already done this. 5 of those states have their bills going into effect on July 1. We can't afford to have Ohio fall behind. If we do not equalize this opportunity for our student athletes with other states, our student athletes will be significantly disadvantaged. Therefore, we have an emergency clause contained in the bill.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 187. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.