

Testimony to the House State and Local Government Committee

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Thank you Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 187, which would allow student athletes in Ohio to earn compensation from their own name, image, and likeness.

It was truly an honor of my life to be able to play for the Ohio State Buckeyes football team. I enjoyed every moment of my time at The Ohio State University, and am grateful for all of my teammates and am thankful for all Buckeyes fans and their continued support.

As a student athlete, I was not allowed to earn compensation from my own name, image, or likeness. This bill would change that. I am here to advocate for all of the current and future student athletes who would benefit from this bill. Most people do not see everything a student athlete goes through. We don't just show up at a game and play. You practice, workout, watch film, have team meetings, have media events and other team activities, and much more. Then on top off of all of that, you have all of the obligations of being a college student. This simply does not leave time to hold a job, and even if you're one of the lucky ones to be on scholarship, the scholarship doesn't cover every expense might have. This bill will change this, allowing student athletes to earn compensation from their name, image, or likeness.

This bill can change the lives forever of current and future student athletes and their families. I was lucky enough to be one of the ones to play in the National Football League. However, I can tell you about countless teammates who didn't make it to the NFL, but were stars in college across in Ohio or in their hometowns. They didn't get an NFL contract. But under this bill, they could have benefited from their hard work on the field while at Ohio State. This bill would be able to positively impact them and their families and change their financial futures. Also, while I do stand here as the former Quarterback of Ohio State's football team, I can tell you this bill is about more than just football. This could have benefited so many fellow student athletes in other sports. While they may not have been household names in Ohio, they are known in the community surrounding their respective sport, and would have benefited from this bill. I am hopeful you will pass this bill so current and former student athletes can get this benefit.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of Senate Bill 187, and I'd be happy to take any questions.