



ATHLETICS

Fawcett Center | 2400 Olentangy River Rd. | Columbus, OH 43210

Testimony of Ryan Day, Head Coach

The Ohio State University Football Team

Ohio House State & Local Government Committee

Senate Bill 187

June 22, 2021

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony today to the committee on SB 187, legislation to allow for student athletes to benefit from their Name-Image-Likeness (NIL).

This is a pivotal time for collegiate athletics, including football programs around the country. I appreciate that the leaders of the state of Ohio have dedicated time to this issue, and their support for both our program and collegiate athletes in the Buckeye state.

I was a college athlete and have served as a coach at both the college and professional level. Over those years, I have seen a lot of change by both institutions and governing organizations as they have continued to adapt and modernize their regulations. I think it is important to highlight the changes that have been made in our ability to provide enhanced support for our student-athletes. Just 15 years ago, schools were not able to provide additional nutrition, strength and conditioning, stipend for cost of attendance, life-skills development, or mental health services. Allowing students to benefit from their Name, Image, and Likeness is another positive step, and is the right thing to do.

As mentioned by Gene, SB 187 will allow our student athletes to receive financial benefits from their name, image, and likeness without jeopardizing their amateur/student athlete status.

Because so many other states have, or will, enact legislation similar to SB 187, this has quickly become an issue for recruiting. If state legislation is not enacted, higher education institutions in Ohio will struggle to attract student-athletes who now can capitalize on their name, image, and likeness elsewhere, including that State Up North.

While I agree with Gene that ultimately federal legislation is needed because a patchwork approach to this issue will create an uneven set of standards, it is unlikely Congress will enact any measure before July 1, 2021. Therefore, we are grateful that the state is consider this legislation to keep our state, our athletes, and our institutions on a "level playing field."



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Collegiate sports offer a unique model which does not exist anywhere else in the world, which provides access to amateur competition and higher education for millions of student athletes each year. At Ohio State University, we strive for excellence every year. To achieve that we need your help with this legislation.

I will close by urging passage of SB 187, including the emergency clause that allows the bill to go into effect on July 1, is an excellent step towards fairness for our student athletes. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for this opportunity.