

## 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.

As a lifelong Columbus area resident, this bill has the ability to help spur the economy not just in Central Ohio, but all across Ohio. For our businesses to be able to partner with student athletes in advertisements will bring great attention and reach for those area small businesses; targeting markets they perhaps did not reach before. As President of the Columbus Apartment Association and President of the Schottenstein Real Estate Group, I can tell you that businesses will be able to use this in a variety of ways; not just in traditional TV, mail, or radio advertising, but also through social media, autograph sessions, and more. The potential of this bill to help businesses is tremendous. Last year, I helped lead a movement to save the Big Ten season when it was facing potential cancelation due to COVID-19. This was just one of the many ways COVID-19 impacted our economy. For me, that solidified that we need to do everything we can to help our economy. We should seek to pass any bill that has the ability to help our Ohio businesses and this bill does that.

This bill is also about fundamental fairness. If you are an exceptional math student, you can earn compensation from tutoring math. If you are a music student, you can earn compensation from performing your music. If you are a business student, you can earn compensation from starting a business while in college. However, the only student who is restricted are student athletes. From a perspective of simple fairness, student athletes should own their own name, image, and likeness, just like any other student at every college or university in Ohio currently does.

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