



## Ohio Senate

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SB 187 Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee  
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Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education 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.

As a student at OSU, I saw how hard student athletes worked, both at their academics and their sports. I have believed since then that students have an inherent right to their name, image, and likeness. I saw students even with scholarships struggle to get by, including some of the biggest names. Not every student will get a Nike or Coke endorsement, but rather perhaps will work with their home town auto dealer, bookstore, or restaurant. Today is a big step forward in the rights for student athletes in Ohio. SB 187 legalizes it today, but accomplishes it in a reasonable and safe manner.

16 states have currently legalized name, image, likeness, 5 of which go into effect July 1. Over 10 other states have bills currently introduced in their legislature. We are 1 of only 11 states that have had no legislative action taken on name, image, and likeness. That ends today. I understand the NCAA and Congress may act. I can't speak to the NCAA, but I know I'm not confident in Congress's ability to do anything. The fact is, one third of America has NIL legalized in their state, and regardless of what NCAA and Congress do, they won't repeal their laws even if they do anything.

I will now address the mechanics of the bill. This bill prohibits any university or intercollegiate athletics association from preventing a student from participating in athletics or otherwise punish them if they receive compensation from their name, image, or likeness. It allows them to obtain professional representation. The bill requires students to inform the university 15 days prior to entering into any contact. The bill has an effective date of July 1 and an emergency clause to enable that. It does not require schools to do anything to enable NIL opportunities for students, and it restricts contracts involving marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, and casinos.

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