

To: Senate Rules Committee  
From: DAM Change  
Re: Support SB 5

4/7/2021

We would like to thank Chairman Wagner and the Rules Committee for allowing DAM Change to submit this written testimony in support of SB 5. DAM Change is an organization founded by Oregon State University college athletes. The primary focus of this organization is to empower college athletes to use their platforms to address systemic racism and inequalities in the United States. The continued restriction of NIL rights is a social and economic justice issue. The exploitation of Black college athletes in NCAA sports continues to be a plague, topic of national discussion, and something that can no longer be tolerated.

College athletes participating in sports with a high percentage of Black individuals, are the economic driving force in the multibillion college sports industry. Regardless of our dedication and commitment to excellence during our time representing the NCAA, we will never reap the economic benefits of our labor.

The NCAA is so fixated on monopolizing every dollar of our value, it denies us the ability to earn compensation from third parties for the use of our own name. This is an unjust economic hardship for college athletes across all sports. Non-scholarship and partial scholarship athletes are not exempt from this rule, and have the same restrictions.

At this years NCAA Basketball Tournament, there was a protest where basketball players from more than two dozen teams spoke out with the hashtag #NotNCAAProperty to call for the freedom to use their own name, image, and likeness. This protest spoke for many of us and underscores why a July 1st effective date for SB 5 is important. We oppose remaining the exclusive property of NCAA sports and our University for any longer. We ask our lawmakers to demonstrate clearly that we are people who deserve the equal freedoms afforded to fellow students and Americans. We support SB 5 because we are #NotNCAAProperty.

Sincerely,

Niya Diani Mack, Women's Gymnastics  
Nya Imani Buckner, Women's Volleyball  
Madison Ruth Ellsworth, Women's Soccer  
Isis Valerie Lowery, Women's Gymnastics 2017-2020  
Sydney Guthrie-Baker, Women's Track and Field  
Jaydon Grant, Men's Football  
Joel Walker, Men's Soccer