



The Drake Group

REALIZING THE PROMISE OF COLLEGE ATHLETICS

2021 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year and thanks to all of you for your continued support of The Drake Group and your commitment to working to realize the promise of college athletics. We are proud to share our 2021 Report on Activities - a summary of all we have accomplished in the past year. We are also optimistic about 2022 being a year that represents a realistic opportunity to achieve significant intercollegiate athletics reforms via new and expansive federal legislation. As bills come to the floor, we will ask for your help in inspiring your networks to mobilize Congress to act. If you think we are doing good work, please join or renew your Drake donation (January to December is our fiscal year) by [clicking here](#). Be SAFE, get your booster shot as soon as you can. All of us at [The Drake Group](#) wish you a healthy and rewarding New Year! --
Donna A. Lopiano, President

OUR WORK WITH CONGRESS



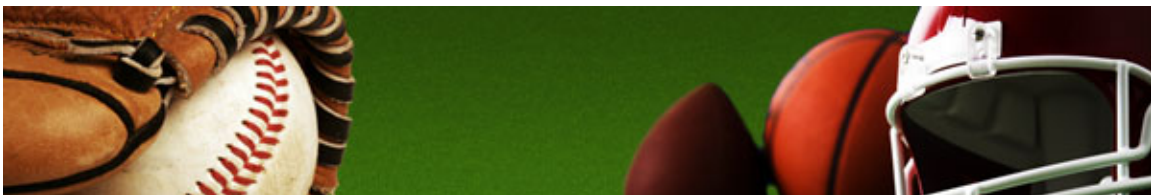
During the past year, we fulfilled our primary role as an academic think tank providing Congress with the advice of our legal, economic, and educational sport experts, well-researched data, and detailed position statements. Our team communicated with the offices of all Congresspersons filing collegiate athletics reform legislation in 2021. Additionally, we worked on bills filed in the 116th Congress (2020) that are being considered for refiling in 2022 (the 2nd session of the 117th Congress).

College athlete name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights dominated Congressional and higher education interest and will continue to do so in 2022. Drake offered analysis and criticism of the following NIL bills: [Student Athlete Level Playing Field Act](#) proposed

by Representatives [Anthony Gonzalez](#) (R-OH) and [Emanuel Cleaver](#) (D-MO), the [Amateur Athletes' Protection and Compensation Act of 2021](#) proposed by Senator [Jerry Moran](#) (R-KS), the [College Athletes Bill of Rights](#) proposed by Senators [Cory Booker](#) (D-NJ) and [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT), the [Collegiate Athlete Compensation Rights Act](#) proposed by Senator [Roger Wicker](#) (R-MS), the [Fairness in Collegiate Athletics Act](#) proposed by Senator [Marco Rubio](#) (R-FL), the [College Athlete Economic Freedom Act](#), companion bills proposed by [Chris Murphy](#) (D-CT) in the Senate and [Lori Trahan](#) (D-MA) in the House. To assist Congressional staffers, [Julie Sommer](#), a Seattle attorney and member of our Board of Directors also prepared a [side-by-side comparison of the leading House and Senate NIL bills](#) and regularly updated a public [database of all state NIL legislation](#) (yeowoman's work!).

Drake also reviewed three other non-NIL bills. The proposed [College Athlete Right to Organize Act](#) proposed by Senator [Chris Murphy](#) (D-CT) would give scholarship athletes the right to organize and collectively bargain under the National Labor Relations Act. The [Standardization of Collegiate Oversight of Revenues and Expenditures \(SCORE\) Act](#) offered by Representative [David Price](#) (R-NC) would require comprehensive annual athletic program financial reporting as a condition of Higher Education Act funding. A late 2021 entry from Representative [David Kustoff](#) (R-TN), the [NCAA Accountability Act of 2021](#) would require the NCAA to give college athletes and institutions under investigation for NCAA rules infractions stringent due process protections. All of these bills will be considered by various committees of the House and Senate and it is still too early to tell which will make it to a floor vote.

OUR POSITIONS ON CRITICAL ISSUES



In addition to its work on Congressional bills, a standing committee meets weekly to review major current issues. This working group has completed another productive year that included in-depth work on two critical issues in intercollegiate athletics - race and Title IX. We issued a major report, [A Continuing Disgrace: Intercollegiate Athletics Race Issues](#), that examined the:

- racial and ethnic composition of college sports;
- mechanisms of racism operating to educationally and economically exploit athletes of color in revenue sports;
- impact of racism on Black and Brown athletes' mental health and their experience of campus life; and
- most difficult forms of racism at predominantly white institutions.

The report included twenty-one recommendations to presidents and trustees of higher education institutions that would remedy these long-standing issues.

A key focus of state and federal policy-making related to college athletics has been on the NIL issue. Due to lack of action by the NCAA and Congress and the differing state laws on NIL, college recruiting has become "alumni pay to play." No one is addressing the rush of alumni eager to ensure that their respective head coaches will be able to

tell prospects that, by attending the "U," they will receive more NIL money compared to other institutions. Recruiting has become the "wild west NIL marketplace."

Lost in this new NIL space was any conversation about Title IX implications. Institutions have continued their historical gender inequities in the recruiting, promotion, and publicity of women's sports. As of December 1 (five months of initial data), **seventy percent of the new NIL compensation** went to male athletes. Drake issued a comprehensive **report on NILs and Title IX** cautioning schools not to use alumni and other third parties to evade their Title IX obligations. Again, we crafted urgent recommendations for higher education leadership to remedy inequities in those areas (recruiting, promotion and publicity) which adversely affect the NIL monetization success of female athletes.

STANDING UP FOR ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



For the past eight years, **our academic metrics position statement** demonstrated a continuation of dismal academic outcomes among the most vulnerable populations - athletes of color in revenue sports. The NCAA's inaccurate "graduation success rate" and other flawed academic metrics are designed to mislead the public. College athletes were and are still being counseled to take less challenging classes and academic majors, often resulting in meaningless degrees. College coaches in all NCAA competitive divisions are still requiring a **30-50 hour work weeks** leaving inadequate time for sleep, recovery, and academics. The Drake Group was originally founded for the purpose of confronting these academic integrity issues. We continue to do so. We are in it for the long haul!

LAUNCH OF ATHLETES RIGHTS 101 AND CRITICAL ISSUES WEBINAR SERIES



Emmett Gill, a member of our Drake Board of Directors who is a licensed mental health professional, launched **@AskDocEmmett** on Twitter and **@AthleteRights101** on Instagram. These public information channels engage college athletes on issues critical to their health and well-being via the social media platforms they live on. In addition to regular social media messaging, a new **Athlete Rights 101** area was added to our website.

A positive outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic was the public's embrace of Zoom webinars as a popular way to engage and consume information. In August of 2021, we launched *The Drake Group Webinar Series -- Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics Hosted by LRT Sports*. Topics included NIL, college athlete mental health issues, the transgender athlete in women's sports, and how to fix the collegiate athletics

governance system. [You can access our webinars here](#). We also created a YouTube.com channel -- [The Drake Group College Athletics](#) -- to ensure that recordings of all webinars and other video content would be available to a broader audience.

THE DRAKE GROUP'S BELIEFS AND VALUES

We believe that the promise of college athletics is its continuing contribution to the development of participants and the excitement and community it brings to the higher education campus, alumni, and fans. We believe that this promise is only fulfilled if athletes who create this excitement are protected from educational and economic exploitation, discrimination on the basis of sex, race, and gender identification, and physical and mental abuse.

You can help. 1. Click the button below to share our Facebook post with your friends and family. 2. Forward this annual report to friends and family who love college sports. 3. [Click here](#) to make a donation to enable our work.

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The Drake Group is an academic think tank working to better educate the U.S. Congress and higher education decision-makers about critical issues in intercollegiate athletics. Our mission is to ensure that the promise of college athletics is realized for all stakeholders.
