



**THE DRAKE GROUP  
EDUCATION FUND**

Realizing The Promise  
Of College Athletics

**2023**

**National Public Service Award**

**THE HONORABLE  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL**

**United States Senator  
for Connecticut**

***Honoring an elected public official responsible for advancing legislation that would significantly improve the conduct of intercollegiate athletic programs, enhance the rights of college athletes, or otherwise protect their education, health and safety.***

In recognition of your persistence and work during the 116<sup>th</sup>, 117<sup>th</sup>, and now the 118<sup>th</sup> sessions of Congress, to advance the ***College Athletes Bill of Rights*** and educate the American public and members of Congress about the failure of intercollegiate athletic programs to protect the rights of college athletes to engage in outside employment related to the monetization of their names, images, and reputations, achieve gender equity as mandated by Title IX, permit transfer to other institutions of higher education without loss of athletics eligibility, enjoy the same freedom of speech as other students, receive proper medical care and athletic injury medical expense coverage, and rely on medical trust fund support for expenses related to longer term athletic program-related medical conditions.

The bill represents the strongest federal legislation to date that addresses college athletes' rights to educational outcomes. Higher education institutions would be required to provide athletic grants-in-aid until the athlete graduates regardless of athletic performance or injury, academic advising and tutoring by academic authorities outside the athletic department, and a first-year financial literacy, athletes' rights disclosure, and life skills development program. Strong penalties would be levied against those who discourage athletes from selecting courses or academic majors of their choices or prohibit athletes from securing employment, internships, or participation in activities available to other students.

Significantly, the bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish health, wellness, and safety standards for intercollegiate athletic programs, mandates the autonomous and unchallengeable authority of athletic trainers and physicians to determine medical management and return-to-play decisions, and guarantees the right of college athletes to be represented by agents, group licensing entities, financial advisors, and attorneys when pursuing outside employment or endorsement contracts.