

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2026

Mr. Charlie Baker
President
National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 7110
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear President Baker,

I write to elevate an issue brought to me by a young athlete from Georgia, who stressed to me the serious impacts traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries have on student athletes. My constituent emphasized the importance of preseason education for athletes on the risks of head injuries, including injuries that do not result in concussion. As the largest governing body in college athletics, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has a critical role to play in keeping student athletes safe. I write in a spirit of collaboration to encourage continued efforts to address the risks associated with brain injuries for student athletes.

While we continue to learn more about traumatic brain injury thanks to the research conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Department Veterans Affairs, I am aware the NCAA is guiding its member schools and equipping them with appropriate tools and protocols to mitigate the potential effects of head injuries in sport. I would be grateful for further information responsive to the following questions, transmitted either in writing or via a briefing provided to my legislative staff:

1. What, if any, educational material or training does the NCAA provide to student athletes and their families regarding the nature and risks of concussion and brain injury? How do student-athletes and their families receive this information?
2. What is the NCAA's guidance or policy with respect to student athletes' participation in athletic events or practices while exhibiting symptoms of a concussion and/or brain injury?
3. What is the NCAA's guidance or policy with respect to student athletes' participation in an athletic event or practice after a licensed health care provider has evaluated them as having sustained a concussion and/or brain injury?

4. How does the NCAA equip coaches, administrators, and other faculty involved in NCAA members' athletic programs to recognize and address symptoms of brain injury or a concussion?
5. What, if any, steps does the NCAA plan to take in the future to address the risk of concussion and brain injury to student athletes?
6. What aspects of the NCAA's brain injury and concussion protocols have demonstrated the greatest success, and how can the Federal government support continued improvement of these practices through collaboration or research?

The NCAA has taken important steps in recent years to support the health and safety of student athletes. I appreciate the work the NCAA has done to improve access to mental and cardiovascular health services and resources for student-athletes, as well as steps the Association has taken to ensure athletes have access to independent medical care. I applaud the NCAA's efforts to close the participation gap between men's and women's athletics by helping foster and expand emerging sports for women, including equestrian, flag football, rugby, and triathlon (athletes' opportunities to participate in these sports has by 20% between the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years alone).¹ I note your efforts to support a compromise in Congress regarding student athlete Name, Image, and Likeness rights and protections, and I support the Association's thoughtful approach establishing that team eligibility in college athletics will be based on biological sex rather than gender identity while ensuring all student athletes are protected from mean-spirited bullying or discrimination. It's clear the NCAA takes care in addressing the evolving issues facing student athletes, and I look forward to working with you to support and protect the brain health of student athletes who are vulnerable to concussions at practice and in competitive events.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of student athletes and their families.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

¹ Emerging Sports for Women, NCAA, <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2016/3/2/emerging-sports-for-women.aspx> (last visited Mar. 20, 2026).