

# FIGHTING TO SAVE COLLEGE ATHLETICS AND PROTECT STUDENT ATHLETES

After spending 40 years as a football coach, educator, and mentor, Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) is leading the effort to restore structure, stability, and common sense to college athletics.

## THE PROBLEM

In June 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that student-athletes could be paid for the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL). Ever since then, college sports have been in a tailspin. The transfer portal has made it easier than ever for athletes to move from one program to another, and repeated transfers have contributed to a system that puts education on the backburner and treats student-athletes like free agents. At the same time, overlapping waivers, exemptions, and eligibility extensions have allowed some athletes to remain in college sports far beyond the traditional college timeline. The result is a system that is increasingly difficult to explain, difficult to administer, and increasingly disconnected from the core idea that college athletics should support education.

## THE SOLUTION

The Student Athlete Act of 2026 will restore structure, fairness, and stability to college athletics by establishing clear national rules for eligibility, transfers, and scholarship protections.

### CLARIFYING ELIGIBILITY RULES:

The bill gives student-athletes 5 consecutive years to compete. This would replace the current patchwork of exceptions and extensions with a more straightforward national rule.

### REINING IN THE TRANSFER PORTAL:

The bill allows a student-athlete to transfer once without penalty. If a student-athlete transfers again, he or she would be required to sit out for the academic year in which the athlete entered the transfer portal.