

February 5, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee,

The NCAA's mission is to offer student-athletes an exceptional experience both on the field and in the classroom, supporting their long-term well-being. A key part of that mission is ensuring that competition is safe, fair, and inclusive – both through our efforts and those of our member institutions. Unfortunately, since sports betting expanded, bettors are increasingly harassing student-athletes online and in person – sometimes over plays that had nothing to do with the outcome of the game. These bets put a target on young people, are easily manipulated and should be banned.

We believe allowing individual college prop bets negatively impact athletes in several ways:

- Prop bets attach an individual student-athlete's name to a bet and therefore increase the likelihood of betting harassment being targeted specifically toward them.
- Prop bets increase the risk of insider information being solicited and/or leveraged to manipulate betting markets. Student-athletes, unlike professional athletes, are far more accessible to other students and members of the public.
- Prop bets may entice student-athletes into engaging in sports betting by betting on themselves to outperform the line.
- Prop bets increase the risk of "spot fixing," or would-be match fixers targeting student-athletes and other sporting participants to fix a portion of a contest without having to fix the whole contest. Recent federal indictments and the NCAA's own investigations into integrity issues for college basketball are proof positive that these bets make student-athletes targets for game manipulation schemes.

Currently, of the 39 states and DC that have legalized sports betting, 25 allow individual college prop bets in some capacity. Importantly though, at the beginning of 2024, that number was higher. Since the NCAA began calling for states to outlaw these bets, four state gaming commissions – including Maryland – have amended their policies to no longer accept individual prop bets on college athletes.

**For these reasons, the NCAA strongly supports Maryland House Bill 518 which codifies a 2024 Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission decision to ban individual proposition bets on all college athletes.**

We understand sports betting is here to stay, and as a former governor, I understand the importance of regulating the industry effectively. I believe Maryland should codify their commission's decision to ban these risky bets from the marketplace and continue to be a national leader in effective gambling industry management.

Thank you again for addressing this important issue impacting our schools, conferences, coaches, and student-athletes. While legalized sports betting has increased interest in sports, there needs to be parameters put in place to prevent harassment and promote competition integrity. This bill is an important step in that direction, and other states should look to Maryland's leadership over the past two years as an example of protecting college athletes.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Charles D. Baker  
President, NCAA

CC:  
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr (MD-17)