

can actually pass this body and become law.

I will say the bipartisan bill that we filed has seen overwhelming support, virtually every conference in America has publicly supported the bill. The bill is supported by: the ACC, the Big 12, the American Conference, Conference USA, the Sun Belt Conference, the Missouri Valley Conference, the SWAC, the MAC, the Pac-12, the Patriot League, the MEAC, Big Sky, the Horizon League, the Ohio Valley Conference, the Western Athletic Conference, the Big West, Metro Atlantic Athletic, Summit League, the West Coast Conference, and the Mountain West all have endorsed this bill. The NFL, the National Football League, has endorsed this bill. The NFL Players Association has endorsed this bill. The NBA Players Association has endorsed this bill. The U.S. Olympic Committee has endorsed this bill.

Coach Nick Saban, probably the most legendary college football coach in America, has explicitly endorsed this bill. Coach John Calipari, one of the most legendary basketball coaches, has endorsed this bill. Coaches all across the country have endorsed this bill. The American Football Coaches Association has endorsed this bill.

Why have we seen such broad support? Because this bill is the only train that is leaving the station. Senator TUBERVILLE said, and I wrote this down: College sports is facing a five-alarm fire.

I agree with him. It is. So the choice this body has—if it were up to me, I would happily pass Senator TUBERVILLE's bill, but it is not up to me. To pass this body, you have to get at least 60 votes. And the only bill that has any prospect of passing into law and fixing the problem is the bipartisan bill that has been negotiated with Senator CANTWELL and myself and also with Senator SCHMITT, another Republican, and Senator COONS, another Democrat.

If it is a five-alarm fire, we are all faced with a choice: Do we do nothing or do we accept an imperfect solution, a compromise that nonetheless gives the certainty that the conferences, the commissioners, the coaches are desperately asking for?

Right now across America, there are more than 500,000 college athletes who compete. If we don't act, hundreds of thousands of those college athletes will lose scholarships and lose the opportunity to go to college. That would be tragic.

So I invite my friend Senator TUBERVILLE, who, as I said, cares deeply and passionately about college sports, to join with us in trying to find a way that Congress can actually for once address and fix a problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I agree with a lot of the things my colleagues are talking about—especially about the five-alarm fire. It is in trouble.

He just brought up a lot of names of people supporting this bill. They don't understand how this place works. They don't understand the significance of when you add those rules, it is a Federal law, and when we get involved in it, if you look at everything else we do, most of the time, it doesn't work.

We are only going to have one chance here, and I brought this 5 for 5, one-time transfer, no waivers. If you don't do it that way, it ain't going to work. If you give waivers to people, you have problems. We are giving one transfer. If you give waivers for everything—"My grandmother had a cold when I was a sophomore"—and they are going to hear it. If they don't get a waiver on that, they are going to go to a Federal judge, and it is going to end up the same way we are doing it today. It is a god-awful mess.

If we want to fix 80 percent of the problems without the Federal Government getting into it, you have 5 years to play, 5, and one transfer. No waivers. No Federal judge can get involved. But if you give waivers, there are going to be more lawsuits than you can ever imagine. It is going to be a disaster.

Senator CANTWELL said something about revenue sharing. You know, they passed a rule a couple years ago that there is \$20 million of revenue that goes to the college athletes. OK, \$20 million a year. That is revenue sharing. Do you know who gets the money? Football players at every university. It doesn't go to women. It doesn't go to basketball or softball or baseball. It goes to the men's football team. It is a disaster.

All I am saying is watch what you are doing, and I am telling my friends calling me that are in coaching and conference commissioners: Read this well. If you are for this, then it is going to be your last chance.

I hope it works. If it passes, I hope it works. I go to a college football game every week. It is my life. I hope it works. But we damn sure better know that it is going to work if we pass it because you are not going to be able to retract it. It is going to be the law of the land—the law of the land. And it is not going to change, I am telling you right now.

I would consider voting for this if there were no waivers and 5 years' eligibility because I know what that affects. I know how that is going to work. I have seen it. These kids are going to run straight to a Federal judge, and they are going to give them leeway, and they are going to give them that extra year, and then you don't have a law.

The only way you can fix this bill, the only way you can fix college sports is 5 for 5, one transfer, no exceptions, and let's go play. But you start giving exceptions and waivers, it is going to be a madhouse, and lawyers are going to make a ton of money. That is who is going to get rich here—not the athletes but the lawyers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHANNON SMITH

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the recent retirement of one of my most respected staff members: Shannon Smith. Shannon is a native of Washington and is returning home to be in Seattle.

I am not sure Shannon ever imagined she would be living in Washington, DC, serving on the Senate Commerce Committee, especially after a long, successful career with the Washington State attorney general's office, where she led the consumer product division, investigating fraud and deceptive practice and holding bad actors accountable for their actions.

The pull to service was clearly still strong, and she once told me that she expected that Washington, DC, would be a good place for her to continue that growth. She lasted here 5 years, and we are so grateful for that because, during that time, she led an impressive effort on the Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy Committee.

Her time on the committee during the Covid crisis helped us fashion legislation that was important in stopping bad actors from hawking online products that clearly had no solutions to the impacts of Covid. She worked very hard, especially on children's online privacy, and working hard on college sports issues.

She did a very important task for us in the legislation that we are talking about now, but it was really her real world experience that was so valuable on the consumer product and safety issues of our committee. I think it is very important tonight to thank her for that work. And while I wish that our consumer products organization was a better organization than today, I know she helped stop some very bad cases from moving forward.

She also led the 2021 reauthorization of the Minority Business Development Agency, which was for the first time established as a permanent Agency—a very important organization to help deliver resources to communities and grow minority businesses, a great victory for them.

She was also instrumental in drafting the American Privacy Rights Act that I introduced with then-Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers who served as the chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. So we worked very hard, so when the Trump administration and Republicans sought to override State laws protecting consumers from the harms of AI, Shannon understood exactly what that would mean for our State and attorneys general across the Nation.

She helped rally those voices against preemption of these most important consumer issues. Most recently, as I mentioned, Shannon led the drafting of the Protect College Sports Act. Actually, before that, she led the drafting of

legislation with my colleagues Senators BOOKER and BLUMENTHAL on sports, legislation with Senator BLACKBURN and CORNYN on sports and agents, and legislation with, recently, Senator SCHMITT on the Sports Broadcasting Act. I want to thank her for all those efforts—but clearly, efforts that are now enshrined by all of those bills in the Protect College Sports Act that helped student-athletes' protections be made into Federal law.

Potentially, this will help us in the college sports system in the current arms race that threatens the future of women and Olympic sports. So we couldn't have done it without her.

I want to thank her for her great work to the Commerce Committee and for protecting Americans from harm. I told her, when she recently left, I was going to make her a jersey that said "Shannon Smith-Njigba" because she is like Smith-Njigba, our famous Seahawk player that had very deft moves on the sidelines and caught lots of passes. That is what Shannon did for consumers; that is what she did to protect us from online privacy faults and to protect us from AI and now, hopefully, to protect us from the ills of college sport.

We are going to miss her, but her retirement was very, very well earned,

and I thank her for that service to our Nation.

I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 10 a.m.