



**Advocating for Equity and
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House Committee on Business and Labor

Testimony in Support of SB 1505 A

February 15, 2022

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham & Grayber,
Representatives Boshart Davis, Bynum, Cate, Evans, George,
Salinas, Smith Warner, and Witt,

My name is Silky Booker and I am a member of the Oregon
Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA).

1. The Commission on Black Affairs works toward
economic, social, political, and legal equity for Black
Oregonians. We do this through advocacy, public policy
research, leadership development, and partnerships.

2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy
making, the OCBA strongly supports SB 1505.

We feel strongly that collegiate athletes must be paid royalties for their name, image, and
likeness. As we are entertained by collegiate and professional athletes, it is not lost on OCBA
that the athletes/performers are disproportionately Black in many different sports. It is also
not lost on OCBA that the system and structures have and remain a means of extracting
profit from the labors of uncompensated student-athletes. This bill is a great next step in the
right direction and we need to look at this more deeply and with an all-encompassing scope.

**Oregon Commission on
Black Affairs**

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While only 13% of the US population is Black, Black athletes still make up 80% of the players in the NBA and 67% in the NFL. These are only the stats of those who have made it to the pinnacle of sport and are well-compensated as professional male athletes. Although Black women disproportionately make up 67% of WNBA players, Black female student-athletes have even less of a chance at lucrative professional compensation.

Those who make it to professional contracts, stand on the shoulders of thousands of student athletes who were used for the profit of colleges and universities along with video game makers, sportswear licensors, and others. In effect, we continue to see in 2022 the extraction of profit from uncompensated Black workers. Little thought is given to the welfare of student-athletes or the communities from which they are groomed, recruited, and harvested. Our student-athletes need just compensation for their labor and this is but an additional step to reaching a complete unshackling of indentured servitude of student-athletes.

Student-athletes should be entitled to fair and just compensation for what they bring to the school, the NCAA, and others just like farmworkers should be entitled to overtime wages they are owed. It is incredibly disheartening that we continue to see slavery-adjacent practices in our state when it comes to mainly Hispanic farmworkers and Black student-athletes. How can anyone continue to argue that this is right, just, and legal?

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs strongly urges you to pass SB 1505. If we believe that people ought to be compensated for their efforts and the use of their name, image, and likeness, let this become law.

Sincerely,



Dr. Silky Booker (H.C.)

Commissioner, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

