

interest of many people, but I want some things into the record in case you make what I would consider the unwise decision to pull this bill out of committee. First of all, the idea of regulating sports agents is not bad, but the way this bill does it is atrocious. Now, one of the main problems is that it takes conduct which, if engaged in by any other business person, is not criminal and makes it criminal. So a person who would violate this agent's bill is a criminal. But if a coach, if an athletic director, if a recruiter commits a violation of NCAA rules, he or she is not a criminal. So why criminalize an agent for doing something that may be less detrimental to the athlete in the long run than what a misbehaving recruiter, coach or other person connected with the athletic department might do? This bill, as all types of legislation and rules, other than mine to pay the players which is righteous, good and beautiful, hurt the players and victimize them. The concern is for the schools. First of all, the athlete's skill is the salable commodity that he has. The school is not interested in the ability of the athlete to sell his commodity, which is his skill. The school is interested in being in a position to exploit that skill of the athlete for its own enrichment. And the only reason the school is concerned about an athlete losing eligibility is because it usually happens to one of the top of the line players who might be a school's franchise, so to speak. So if that top flight player loses his eligibility, it impinges on the school's ability to make money and exploit that player, so that's why they're upset with the agents. Secondly, this bill is indicating that the agent, ungoverned, would be a hard and unfair taskmaster, which is true. But the bill allows the trading of that bad master for another one, namely the university. If the university decides that before the last game is played by a player that they will organize a situation where agents can talk to the players, then it's all right, and you give the school an awesome and unfair club over the player by telling the player, if you do what I want you to do, I'll arrange a situation where you can talk to agents during your last year, therefore, give you a better shot at future earnings, then the player just about has to do whatever the school does. I think it is reprehensible. I think it is unethical. I think it is unfair to give the universities that type of control over a player's future earnings. This bill does that. Now you ought to consider also that instead of going after the agents only, the schools, instead of creating these nothing fluff courses to keep the players eligible, should install some for-credit classes that would teach the players about contracts, agents,