

Wilmington, Delaware
November 21, 2019

#4746 **WHEREAS**, public and private educational institutions have been profiting off
Sponsor: collegiate level athletes for decades, yet the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
Council prohibits said athletes from receiving financial compensation from the use of their name,
Member image, and likeness; and
Turner

Co-Sponsors: **WHEREAS**, collegiate level athletes – Student Athletes - are also prohibited from
Council signing licensing contracts, brand endorsement deals, and from hiring agents; and
Members

Harlee **WHEREAS**, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 206- Fair Pay to
Gray Play Act- into law which allows for collegiate level athletes to hire agents and financially
benefit from endorsements; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania legislators have recently proposed House Bill 1909 which
will institute a Fair Play to Pay Act in Pennsylvania’s college institutions; and

WHEREAS, other states in the nation such as New Jersey, Florida, and Illinois are
also expressing interest in similar legislation, including New York which currently has a
similar bill in their Senate; and

WHEREAS, five out of the eight higher educational institutions in the state of
Delaware are members of the NCAA: Delaware State University, Goldey–Beacom College,
University of Delaware, Wesley College, and Wilmington University. In addition, Delaware
Technical Community College is a member of the National Junior College Athletic
Association; and

WHEREAS, athletics are an important part of the collegiate experience and in 2018
brought in a nationwide revenue of \$14 billion, which is up from \$3 billion in 2003. However,

\$1.2 billion of that revenue was spent on coach salaries and the remaining \$936 million was spent on athlete student aid; and

WHEREAS, each of Delaware’s NCAA accredited institutions have championship competing and winning teams playing basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, track and field, tennis, and volleyball; and

WHEREAS, teams and athletes from each institution have been nationally recognized in other ways. Wilmington University’s cheerleading team was named the Universal Cheerleading Association's national champions for five consecutive years between 2012 and 2017; 5 athletes at Goldey-Beacom College have been recognized as Academic All-American Athletes; and several professional MVPS and record holders first played at Delaware State University; and

WHEREAS, since the year 2000, almost 100 Delaware collegiate athletes have been inducted into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame, including: eight-time baseball league all-star and three-time MVP Wilbert “Bunny” Miller; softball outfielder and Delaware Technical Community College alumnus Dionna Harris who played on the only Olympic softball team to ever win a gold medal; Ann Marie (Annie) Igo Rizzo who played on the first women’s sports teams at the University of Delaware; football player Mike Brown who lead the Blue Hens into an undefeated season; and football lineman Frank Burton Sr. whose son now plays football for the University of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, The numerous athletes in the Hall of Fame, or who have competed on championship winning teams, or who currently play on professional teams would have all benefited greatly from Fair Pay to Play policies during their college years- particularly those student athletes who were from low-to-moderate income families that experienced economic

hardships prior to and during their son or daughter being selected into a collegiate athletic program; and

WHEREAS, collegiate athletes in the nation, including those in the State of Delaware, receive little to no recompense despite the great amount of benefits they bring to their educational institution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the City Council strongly supports California’s Senate Bill 206, Pennsylvania’s House Bill 1909, and both states’ efforts to support their large population of collegiate athletes. In addition, the City Council urges the State of Delaware to begin the process of drafting similar legislation to show our support for the collegiate athletes attending institutions in our state of Delaware.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution expresses strong support from the Wilmington City Council for California and Pennsylvania’s recent steps to enact Fair Pay to Play Acts. In addition, City Council urges the State of Delaware to join other states in the nation as they draft Fair Pay to Play Acts to support their collegiate athletes.