OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 206, the Fair Pay to Play Act. Commencing on January 1, 2023, this bill permits college student athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness, and allows student athletes to obtain professional legal representation such as a sports agent.

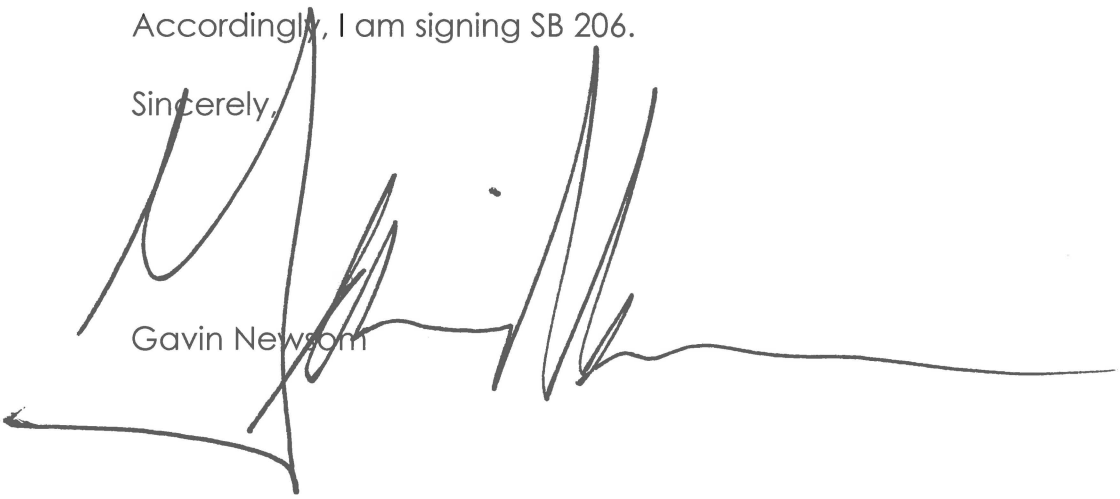
SB 206 addresses an injustice in our higher education system. Other college students with a talent, whether it be literature, music, or technological innovation, can monetize their skill and hard work. Student athletes, however, are prohibited from being compensated while their respective colleges and universities make millions, often at great risk to athletes' health, academics, and professional careers. Moreover, due to their demanding academic and athletic schedules, student athletes are typically unable to work a part time job to help make ends meet. This bill simply and rightfully allows student athletes to benefit from the multi-billion dollar enterprise of which they are the backbone. The bill does not change the fundamental promise we make to student athletes – that they can participate in athletics while also gaining a meaningful education and attaining a college degree that will boost their economic opportunities for a lifetime.

I look forward to reviewing the recommendations of the NCAA's working group on name, image, and likeness, which are due in October 2019. SB 206 provides for a three year implementation window. If unintended consequences arise that negatively impact our colleges and universities, or our student athletes, my administration will work constructively with the Legislature to address these issues.

Ultimately, this is a fundamental matter of fairness and equity that is well past due.

Accordingly, I am signing SB 206.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom