

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman Gary G. Miller
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Congressman Gary Miller Introduces Bill Requiring a College Football Playoff System

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Gary Miller introduced legislation that will require NCAA universities participating in Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) football to implement a playoff system to determine a national champion within three years of enactment.

“While the current Bowl Championship Series (BCS) system was created to identify a broadly accepted national champion, its implementation has shown that the only way to accurately determine a champion is to create a playoff system that is open to all teams,” said Congressman Miller. “There is no reason the NCAA should continue to disadvantage certain schools when every other major college sport’s championship is settled through a playoff.”

In order for an NCAA FBS Football Championship to be established, the NCAA FBS membership must consider such a proposal through its normal legislative process. To date, legislation to establish a national championship has not been seriously considered by the membership. To restore fairness to all aspects of college athletics, Congressman Miller’s bill will prevent any FBS school currently receiving federal funds from participating in FBS football unless the NCAA implements a playoff system within three years time. This legislation allows current bowls to be incorporated into the playoff system and does not stipulate how many teams must participate, leaving the precise details of the playoffs to be determined by the member universities.

“This issue is about fairness, equality, and living up to the collegiate standard of competition,” added Congressman Miller. “We shouldn’t be subjectively selecting the National Champion; it’s time to settle the issue on the field.”

The BCS system is a contractual agreement between the eleven FBS Conferences (Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Conference USA, Mid-American, Mountain West, Sun Belt, Pacific 10, Southeastern and Western Athletic), The University of Notre Dame, and the five BCS bowls (BCS National Championship Game, Rose Bowl, FedEx Orange Bowl, Allstate Sugar Bowl, and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl). The BCS is a five-game arrangement for post-season college football, favoring the six major conferences who each receive an automatic qualifying team, designed to match the two top-rated teams in a national championship game through a complex system of human polls and computer ratings, as well as create competitive matchups between eight teams in four other games.

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