

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 25, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 25, 2018, at 5:24 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1873.  
With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS  
FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE  
SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 534) to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 534

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS  
FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

Sec. 101. Required reporting of child and sexual abuse.

Sec. 102. Civil remedy for personal injuries.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CENTER FOR  
SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 201. Expansion of the purposes of the corporation.

Sec. 202. Designation of the United States Center for Safe Sport.

Sec. 203. Additional requirements for granting sanctions for amateur athletic competitions.

Sec. 204. General requirements for youth-serving amateur sports organizations.

TITLE I—PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS  
FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

SEC. 101. REQUIRED REPORTING OF CHILD AND  
SEXUAL ABUSE.

(a) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “A person who” and inserting the following:

“(1) COVERED PROFESSIONALS.—A person who”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—A covered individual who learns of facts that give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse, shall as soon as possible make a report of the suspected abuse to the agency designated by the Attorney General under subsection (d).”;

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) the term ‘covered individual’ means an adult who is authorized, by a national governing body, a member of a national governing body, or an amateur sports organization that participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition, to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an amateur sports organization facility or at any event sanctioned by a national governing body, a member of a national governing body, or such an amateur sports organization;

“(10) the term ‘event’ includes travel, lodging, practice, competition, and health or medical treatment;

“(11) the terms ‘amateur athlete’, ‘amateur athletic competition’, ‘amateur sports organization’, ‘international amateur athletic competition’, and ‘national governing body’ have the meanings given the terms in section 220501(b) of title 36, United States Code; and

“(12) the term ‘as soon as possible’ means within a 24-hour period.”;

(4) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting “and for all covered individuals” after “reside”;

(5) in subsection (f), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “and on all” and inserting “on all”; and

(B) by inserting “and for all covered individuals,” after “lands,”;

(6) in subsection (h), by inserting “and all covered individuals,” after “facilities,”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a victim of child abuse to self-report the abuse.”.

(b) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.—Section 2258 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or a covered individual as described in subsection (a)(2) of such section 226 who,” after “facility.”.

SEC. 102. CIVIL REMEDY FOR PERSONAL INJURIES.

Section 2255 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of this title and who suffers personal injury as a result of such violation, regardless of whether the injury occurred while such person was a minor, may sue in any appropriate United States District Court and shall recover the actual damages such person sustains or liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000, and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney’s fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred. The court may also award punitive damages and such other preliminary and equitable relief as the court determines to be appropriate.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “filed within” and all that follows through the end and inserting the following: “filed—

“(1) not later than 10 years after the date on which the plaintiff reasonably discovers the later of—

“(A) the violation that forms the basis for the claim; or

“(B) the injury that forms the basis for the claim; or

“(2) not later than 10 years after the date on which the victim reaches 18 years of age.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

“(1) VENUE.—Any action brought under subsection (a) may be brought in the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28.

“(2) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under subsection (a), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

“(A) is an inhabitant; or

“(B) may be found.”.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CENTER FOR  
SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 201. EXPANSION OF THE PURPOSES OF THE  
CORPORATION.

Section 220503 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) to promote a safe environment in sports that is free from abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete.”.

SEC. 202. DESIGNATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
CENTER FOR SAFE SPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subchapter III—United States Center for  
Safe Sport

“§ 220541. Designation of United States Center for Safe Sport

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Center for Safe Sport shall—

“(1) serve as the independent national safe sport organization and be recognized worldwide as the independent national safe sport organization for the United States;

“(2) exercise jurisdiction over the corporation, each national governing body, and each paralympic sports organization with regard to safeguarding amateur athletes against abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, in sports;

“(3) maintain an office for education and outreach that shall develop training, oversight practices, policies, and procedures to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of amateur athletes participating in amateur athletic activities through national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations;

“(4) maintain an office for response and resolution that shall establish mechanisms that allow for the reporting, investigation, and resolution, pursuant to subsection (c), of alleged sexual abuse in violation of the Center’s policies and procedures; and

“(5) ensure that the mechanisms under paragraph (4) provide fair notice and an opportunity to be heard and protect the privacy and safety of complainants.

“(b) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The policies and procedures developed under subsection (a)(3) shall apply as though they were incorporated in and made a part of section 220524 of this title.

“(c) BINDING ARBITRATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center may, in its discretion, utilize a neutral arbitration body and develop policies and procedures to resolve allegations of sexual abuse within its jurisdiction to determine the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official, who is the subject of such an allegation, to participate in amateur athletic competition.

“(2) PRESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering, superseding, or otherwise affecting the right of an individual within the Center’s jurisdiction to pursue civil remedies through the courts for personal injuries arising from abuse in violation of the Center’s policies and procedures, nor shall the Center condition the participation of any such individual in a proceeding described in paragraph (1) upon an agreement not to pursue such civil remedies.

“(d) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an applicable entity shall not be liable for damages in any civil action for defamation, libel, slander, or damage to reputation arising out of any action or communication, if the action arises from the execution of the responsibilities or functions described in this section, section 220542, or section 220543.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in any action in which an applicable entity acted with actual malice, or provided information or took action not pursuant to this section, section 220542, or section 220543.

“(3) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable entity’ means—

“(A) the Center;

“(B) a national governing body;

“(C) a paralympic sports organization;

“(D) an amateur sports organization or other person sanctioned by a national governing body under section 220525;

“(E) an amateur sports organization reporting under section 220530;

“(F) any officer, employee, agent, or member of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E); and

“(G) any individual participating in a proceeding pursuant to this section.

**“§ 220542. Additional duties.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall—

“(1) develop training, oversight practices, policies, and procedures for implementation by a national governing body or paralympic sports organization to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete; and

“(2) include in the policies and procedures developed under section 220541(a)(3)—

“(A) a requirement that all adult members of a national governing body, a paralympic sports organization, or a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization, and all adults authorized by such members to interact with an amateur athlete, report immediately any allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor to—

“(i) the Center, whenever such members or adults learn of facts leading them to suspect reasonably that an amateur athlete who is a minor has suffered an incident of child abuse; and

“(ii) law enforcement consistent with section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341);

“(B) a mechanism, approved by a trained expert on child abuse, that allows a complainant to report easily an incident of child abuse to the Center, a national governing body, law enforcement authorities, or other appropriate authorities;

“(C) reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances;

“(D) procedures to prohibit retaliation, by any national governing body or paralympic sports organization, against any individual who makes a report under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B);

“(E) oversight procedures, including regular and random audits conducted by subject matter experts unaffiliated with, and independent of, a national governing body or a paralympic sports organization of each national governing body and paralympic sports organization to ensure that policies and procedures developed under that section are followed correctly and that consistent training is offered and given to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and subject to parental consent, to members who are minors, regarding prevention of child abuse; and

“(F) a mechanism by which a national governing body or paralympic sports organization can—

“(i) share confidentially a report of suspected child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor by a member of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization, or an adult authorized by a national governing body, paralympic sports organization, or an amateur sports organization to interact with an amateur athlete who is a minor, with the Center, which in turn, may share with relevant national governing bodies, paralympic sports organizations, and other entities; and

“(ii) withhold providing to an adult who is the subject of an allegation of child abuse authority to interact with an amateur athlete who is a minor until the resolution of such allegation.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization to impose an interim measure to prevent an individual who is the subject of an allegation of sexual abuse from interacting with an amateur athlete prior to the Center exercising its jurisdiction over a matter.

**“§ 220543. Records, audits, and reports**

“(a) RECORDS.—The Center shall keep correct and complete records of account.

“(b) REPORT.—The Center shall submit an annual report to Congress, including—

“(1) an audit conducted and submitted in accordance with section 10101; and

“(2) a description of the activities of the Center.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 220501(b) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (8) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3), the following:

“(4) ‘Center’ means the United States Center for Safe Sport designated under section 220541.

“(5) ‘child abuse’ has the meaning given the term in section 212 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20302).”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER III — UNITED STATES CENTER FOR SAFE SPORT

“220541. Designation of United States Center for Safe Sport.

“220542. Additional duties.

“220543. Records, audits, and reports.”.

**SEC. 203. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTING SANCTIONS FOR AMATEUR ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS.**

Section 220525(b)(4) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) the amateur sports organization or person requesting sanction from a national governing body will implement and abide by the policies and procedures to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and child abuse, of amateur athletes participating in amateur athletic activities applicable to such national governing body.”.

**SEC. 204. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUTH-SERVING AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 220530. Other amateur sports organizations**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An applicable amateur sports organization shall—

“(1) comply with the reporting requirements of section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20341);

“(2) establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of the applicable amateur sports organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances;

“(3) offer and provide consistent training to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and subject to parental consent, to members who are minors, regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse to allow a complainant to report easily an incident of child abuse to appropriate persons; and

“(4) prohibit retaliation, by the applicable amateur sports organization, against any individual who makes a report under paragraph (1).

“(b) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATION.—In this section, the term ‘applicable amateur sports organization’ means an amateur sports organization—

“(1) that is not otherwise subject to the requirements under subchapter III;

“(2) that participates in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition; and

“(3) whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 220529 the following:

“220530. Other amateur sports organizations.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 534, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today we are voting on S. 534, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017. This important legislation protects child athletes from both sexual and physical abuse.

Over the past year, the Nation was horrified to learn of the decades of abuse that occurred within USA Gymnastics by Dr. Larry “Lecherous” Nassar. The middle name was added by me, Mr. Speaker. Last week, Nassar was sentenced to between 40 and 175 years’ incarceration after pleading guilty to several counts of sexual assault.

Over 150 women and girls gave victim impact statements. How a serial predator like Dr. Nassar could have preyed on so many young girls for such a long time in such a flagrant fashion is appalling.

Our amateur gymnasts were failed. They were failed by the very people who are supposed to protect them and do no harm, as doctors are supposed to do.

In the past weeks, we have not only seen Dr. Nassar brought to justice, but we have also seen many others held accountable for their roles of commission and omission associated with these atrocities. Though we are glad to see justice finally served in this case, we must take appropriate measures to prevent this from occurring again. This bill will do that.

Under current law, the Victims of Child Abuse Act requires persons engaged in certain activities and professions on Federal lands or in Federal facilities to report child abuse. Failure to report could subject such persons to criminal penalties.

This bill expands these mandatory reporting requirements to adults working at national governing boards, that is, amateur sports organizations recognized by the United States Olympic Committee, such as USA Gymnastics or USA Tennis, or at sanctioned events. The bill also charters a new organization called Safe Sport, tasked with preventing child abuse within the national governing bodies through education and handling reports of misconduct.

Safe Sport will assure these national governing bodies abide by such policies and procedures to assure that predators like Dr. Nassar will never again be permitted to terrorize young athletes with impunity.

I would like to thank Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana for her hard work on this issue and for assembling a bipartisan team of cosponsors. Protecting our young people, including those who have sacrificed so much to represent the United States, such as Olympic athletes, is and should be a bipartisan undertaking.

I commend my colleagues for their support, and I urge them to vote in favor of S. 534.

Mr. Speaker, I have 133 victim impact statements of young women that were made at this sentencing, and I want to read just a few phrases from some of these strong athletes who had the courage to come forward and tell what Dr. Nassar did to them.

The first one is from Donna Markham. Donna’s daughter Chelsey was an athlete under the supervision of Nassar. She could not give a victim impact statement, and here is why, according to her mother, Donna: “In 2009, she took her own life. She couldn’t deal with the pain anymore. Every day I miss her. It all started with him.”

Danielle Moore: “I hope being reduced to a prison number”—she is talking to Nassar—“will define you as it defined me for so many years. I will no longer be known as a number, and I will be Dr. Danielle Moore.”

Megan Halicek: “As I stand here, I still flash back to the feelings of fear, laying frozen in his office, my sweating, shaking body, adrenaline pumping, painfully clutching the sides of the table, waiting for the sick treatment to be over.”

Gwen Anderson: “I still remember him saying, ‘It’s okay. I know you’re not used to being touched there, but it will feel better.’”

And here is what Gwen’s coach had to say, Thomas Brennan: “For the record, go to hell. . . . What you did to everyone else who trusted you and sent girls your way is disgusting, reprehensible, unforgivable.”

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 534, the Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, but I thank my colleagues here in the House, Congresswoman Brooks and Congresswoman FRANKEL of Florida.

In Michigan, there was a volcanic action. One might call it the “Nassar volcano.” It acted, and there was no reaction. It was deadening silence. No one responded to the volcano that kept pouring poisonous lava in the way of young, beautiful athletes.

I would hope and wish that I was not on the floor today with my colleague

from Texas having to discuss this life-changing experience for these young athletes who wanted to do nothing else but to make their families proud first, maybe exceed, and be able to adhere to their faith, determination, and resolve and make their Nation, their State, their school proud of them, young girls, women, who, heretofore, Mr. Speaker, had been held back or told that this sport was not for them.

I am reminded of the women’s hockey team, and I heard a young hockey player indicate that her grandmother said that hockey was not for girls.

All they wanted to do was to make us proud. All they wanted to do is to show the strength of women and the resolve of women. That is why I think this bill not only is important, Mr. Speaker, but it is timely to come today; but all of us would have wished, with no condemnation, that we had it 5 years ago or 10 years ago.

But remember what I said: the volcanic action was faced with deafening silence, for those who knew and for the girls who wanted to make us proud thought that the best way to resolve it or to handle it was to embrace it, accept it, suffer, and still make us proud.

That is why I believe this bill is crucial, and I am very glad to be on the floor with the two House sponsors, and I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for her efforts, because this bill would prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities.

This is a reasonable and important measure that is intended to protect young athletes—and listen to the sound of the volcano—from abuse and preserve the sanctity of sports associated with the U.S. Olympic Committee, the organization responsible for preparing and training young athletes who might one day represent our Nation competitively all over the world.

How proud we are as we sit and view them on the Nation’s televisions, the Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics that are about to start. How shameful it is that we have to have this legislation to protect them and, as well, the deadening silence at Michigan State University and Dr. Nassar. I guess the only words that he could say are how ashamed and embarrassed and sorry he is.

Eons and eons and eons of young women now live with that pain. Children deserve to fully enjoy the innocence of their youth by exploring the curiosities of the world, taking pleasure in the art, participating in sports free of abuse.

Yes, I am going to defend the parents. I know some of them are overly eager. We have seen them at Little League, and we have seen them at football competition for little ones and middle school and high school, and they are overly enthusiastic. You can’t condemn a parent for being proud of their child. And if that child wants to be engaged in sports, you can’t condemn that parent for trying to get

them the best doctor and best instructor. Those parents were not protected—deafening silence.

Sexual abuse of children and youth is an abhorrent practice that is intolerable in any context, and we must take appropriate measures to eliminate it from youth sports. Young people look to adults to protect them and keep them safe. We all have a responsibility to do so. With S. 534, we have an opportunity to ensure that individuals abide by this duty.

Certain other professionals, such as doctors, dentists, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and daycare workers, are already bound by law to report suspected abuse to law enforcement. Finally, S. 534 will require the same of adults who interact with young athletes in connection with sports activities organized by the national governing bodies of various sports.

The urgent need for this legislation is best illustrated by the horrible abuse and exploitation of numerous young gymnasts at the hands of Dr. Larry Nassar, who victimized young athletes participating in USA Gymnastics over the course of 20 years—20 years, two decades.

All of our hearts should break. In those 20 years, there were lives ruined. They will never be the vibrant, excited young women that they were as they entered this wonderful experience of showing their prowess, their genius, and their strength. The stories of abuse and suffering of these young women are heartbreaking.

Many complaints of sexual and emotional abuse by Nassar and others went unreported for years, allowing coaches, instructors, and doctors to repeatedly victimize gymnasts as young as 6 years old. The shocking failure of anyone to report accusations to law enforcement or even keep track of complaints internally made it possible for some of these predators to commit multiple horrific acts over time. We entrust the care of our children and young athletes to those we hope will uphold the trust and not abuse it.

One of the more than 150 girls and women victimized by Dr. Nassar was recently quoted as saying:

He has everything he needs to be an incredible leader. He has the personality, the skill, and the knowledge, and he's using it to prey on people. What a waste.

Last week, a Michigan judge sentenced Nassar to a prison sentence of up to 175 years. The judge called Nassar's assaults on scores of girls and women under the pretense that he was treating them as "precise, calculated, manipulative, devious, despicable." She also indicated what a debasing human being he was and is.

We must continue to do more to help protect our young athletes, and this bill will greatly assist in that effort. However, I must note a concern with a change the bill before us would make to the Senate-passed version of S. 534.

The bill unanimously passed by the Senate would authorize funding to be

provided to the U.S. Center for Safe Sport in the amount of \$1 million for each of the next 4 years. Unfortunately, the version of the bill before us strips this funding authorization. I believe we should have taken up the Senate bill without amendment.

Safe Sport is charged with important responsibilities under this bill with respect to receiving and investigating all allegations of abuse and setting policies to prevent future abuse, so this bill has taken out that language from the Senate.

□ 1715

It is critical that we ensure that the center is provided the resources for those things to be done immediately. By doing so, I hope we will prevent the type of abuse and suffering perpetrated by the people like Larry Nassar.

In a recent open letter from the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association to athletes everywhere, they wrote:

The goal of Olympianism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, womankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. Now we must ask: How can athlete dignity be preserved when the responsible institutions fail so in their oversight?

In an apology letter to Team USA from the United States Olympic Committee issued last week, the committee admitted that they had failed these young athletes.

Frankly, I believe that whole committee and system should be overhauled, reviewed, inspected, and changed. While the USA Gymnastics scandal is unfortunate, let it be an example and an incentive to prevent such abuse from happening in the nooks and crannies of this Nation, in the villages and cities and counties where young people who are starry-eyed and ready to accept the leadership of an adult are ready to show their proudness as well as their talent, their strength, and their resolve. I hope that we will never end that here in America.

Mr. Speaker, accordingly, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation. I hope we will see fit to fund it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my friend from Texas. Just so it is clear, I agree with her on the money. It should have been funded, but it was ruled an earmark, and we can't do earmarks anymore. We have to go through another process to get that funding. A good reason why we ought to have earmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Amanda Barterian said this at the sentencing hearing: "I refuse to let Larry Nassar take anything more from here. He has already taken enough."

Nicole Walker said this at the sentencing hearing: "I have anxiety and sleep disorders all because of what you"—Nassar—"did to me."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a former U.S. attorney.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, S. 534.

I also want to thank my colleague from the other side of the aisle, the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues that I co-chair, Representative LOIS FRANKEL from Florida, for helping me get this bill to this point and for helping us support Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator THUNE as they move the bill in the Senate.

In less than 2 weeks, over 200 American athletes will represent our Nation at the highest levels of sport in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.

These athletes have prepared their entire lives for these games, and their performances are a result of countless hours of practice, self-discipline, and sacrifice.

Tragically, we have also learned that many of our young athletes have been subjected to sexual abuse at the hands of those who were supposed to be supporting them reach their Olympic goals.

We have seen more than 156 women use their voices to share their agonizing stories of sexual abuse at the hands of a doctor they and their parents were told to trust, Dr. Larry Nassar.

Their decision to publicly reveal their traumatic experiences is nothing short of heroic, and it was instrumental in ensuring that Nassar will never again touch another young athlete.

Now, after a 2016 Indianapolis Star investigation exposed what is now known as the worst sexual abuse scandal in athletics to date, we are taking action to prevent this heinous action from ever taking place again.

Today, the House will vote on the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation mandates training, increases requirements for reporting abuse, and reforms a broken system that has failed too many victims.

This bill requires any individual who interacts with our amateur athletes to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours. If they fail to do so, they will be held accountable by the new law.

To prevent future emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, this bill designates the United States Center for Safe Sport to develop, implement, and enforce policies, procedures, and mandatory training for national governing bodies and their members.

The center will ensure that, when reports of abuse are made, they are investigated. It protects those who report abuse from retaliation. As commonsense would dictate, it requires that, until the investigation is closed, an adult who is subject to allegations

of abuse against a minor is prohibited from interacting with minors.

As the Nassar sentencings come to a close and the Olympic games quickly approach, we are reminded of the importance of protecting the safety and well-being of all of our athletes.

Today, we are strengthening protections for victims to ensure transparency and accountability, and putting the safety and the health of our athletes and every young athlete who has ever dreamed of the Olympic stage first.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for consideration of this bill and I urge my colleagues to pass the Senate bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), the co-sponsor of the House bill, and I thank her for her leadership on these issues.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. POE and Ms. JACKSON LEE for leading this debate today. And, of course, I want to thank Susan Brooks, my co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, for her support. This is an example of bipartisanship at its best. And, of course, I also thank DIANNE FEINSTEIN over in the Senate, whose bill we are taking up, our companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act. It is a long name, but it is important. It came about on the heels of reports of sexual abuse at the highest levels of USA Gymnastics.

Me Too has come to the Olympics, and we have heard from more than 150 very brave young women, extraordinary not only in their talent but in their courage, who have shared their harrowing stories of sexual abuse at the hands of a doctor, Larry Nassar, who they were told to trust.

One of these stories is from Mattie Larson, who was a budding young gymnast and a future Olympic medalist. At age 14, she hurt her hip and was sent to Dr. Nassar, the well-known and now disgraced doctor who cared for hundreds of athletes like Mattie.

Instead of healing her hip, he crippled her mind. For 5 years, this doctor molested this young woman. She became so desperate at one point that she feigned a slip and fall and a concussion just to try to get out of ever going back to the Olympic facility.

Mattie said: “. . . I just couldn't take any more abuse. I was broken. Larry, my coaches, and USA Gymnastics turned the sport I fell in love with as a kid into my personal living hell.”

These children are children, like Mattie, who want to represent our country and who give up so much of their childhood, getting up early, practicing hard, on weekends going to competitions, and then only to be subjected to sexual abuse by the team doctor, and then either ignored or encouraged to keep silent.

I say shame, shame, shame on those who enabled this.

It may be too late to protect Mattie and Olympic stars like Aly Raisman, but this legislation, by requiring proper reporting and notifying procedures, will protect our future young athletes. I urge my colleagues to support this very, very good bipartisanship legislation.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Katherine Gordon said this at the sentencing: “Sexual assault is distant until you realize each girl in the news is a broken mirror.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Bishop).

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 534, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, last week was a tough week in my district and in our country. In a courtroom in Lansing, Michigan, 156 victims, one by one, bravely faced depraved sexual predator Larry Nassar to recount their personal story of unimaginable and despicable atrocities.

As we now know, reports of sexual misconduct were routinely dismissed or flatly ignored by the management of USA Gymnastics. As a direct result, hundreds of young women, all of whom relied on these trusted professionals all around them, were sexually assaulted under the guise of medical treatment.

The court did its part this week and sentenced Nassar to a maximum prison term where he will spend the rest of his life. But the investigation continues and others will be held accountable in days to come.

For our part during this process, Members of Congress must do everything in their power to ensure that this never happens again. With that as our objective, I believe this bill takes a dramatic step in the right direction.

Now, I must say in all candor, I stand before you today in absolute disbelief; disbelief in the layers of mismanagement that should have prevented this from happening, but also disbelief that it takes an act of Congress to ensure a congressionally chartered organization fulfill its obligation to care for and protect the young athletes with whom their parents have entrusted.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my constituents in offering our heartfelt prayers to the victims and their families for the nightmare that they have experienced.

To all of you: Please know my colleagues and I will do everything in our power to be your strong advocate and to ensure justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to advocate and support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we have listened to various speakers, I am glad that we are joined by men and women of the United States Congress. All of us have indi-

cated the sadness in which we do this now.

But I think it is also important to take note of the fact of individuals who have to be held responsible. We know that the president of the university was asked to resign, or in fact has resigned. As we go forward, there will be others as well.

This should be the clarion call, even as this legislation is passed and signed by the President, for all of these agencies and associations that run sports for children to do their own vetting and internal assessment of individuals who are not there for the benefit of children but are there for the benefit of themselves.

156-plus women were molested by this doctor. One of the victims said something that stops your breath. This could have been stopped in 1997, more than 20 years ago.

So this legislation should move swiftly to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership as well as the author, Mrs. BROOKS, for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act. In the wake of the horrendous revelations of sexual abuse brought to the forefront by the recent USA Gymnastics case, it is clear that measures do need to be put in place to protect young athletes and keep them safe.

No child should ever be put in the position of having their innocence robbed from them, which is why we need to have the highest protections of the law from those looking to exploit them and take advantage of their vulnerability.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill which will require amateur athletic-governing bodies to immediately report sex abuse allegations to local or Federal law enforcement and also to make it safe and easy for victims to report that abuse.

As the Olympics approach, there is no doubt, we will all be reminded, unfortunately, of the recent sexual abuse case that took place with the gymnastics team. But this is our opportunity to take action, to do everything in our power to make sure that this does not happen again, and to protect all of our young and future athletes, giving them the confidence that they will never be put in a situation where an adult or someone who may have inappropriate intentions does not have the ability to do so.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when I read the quote from the accuser who said this could have been stopped in 1997, the article's headline was that eight times Larry Nassar could have been stopped. Eight times. So it is important to take note of this legislation as a clarion call, and these words are most important.

This provision makes it unlawful for an adult who is authorized by a national governing body, a member of a national governing body, or an amateur sports organization that participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at specific events to fail to report as soon as possible child and sexual abuse to local law enforcement or another agency.

Many times members of the Judiciary Committee don't like wide nets. We have a responsibility to adhere to the Constitution. But we are the committee that has the responsibility of upholding the rule of law. And to all of those who are now in this wide net, that is the rule of law: to be able to protect our children against massive sexual abuse as they pursue their dreams.

Just a comment, the requirement would arise on a person that learns of the facts that give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse; and, therefore, those who can say or attempt to say, "I couldn't understand what the child was saying; it wasn't clear," but if they got a sense that there was a problem, they come under that net. I believe that that is appropriate.

Let me also indicate that there is a long list of heroes who have been impacted by Dr. Nassar. My constituent stated, on January 16, a former Olympic gymnast who wowed the world, Simone Biles, said that she was abused by Dr. Nassar.

The long list of Dr. Nassar's victims include U.S. Olympic gymnasts McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman, and Gabby Douglas. They represented the country and made us proud. And can you imagine? They were abused. Let me thank the many organizations that have worked hard to advance this legislation, including Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, RAINN, the Nation's largest antisexual violence organization. They have been magnificent.

I include in the RECORD a number of letters, Mr. Speaker, because each day approximately 600 individuals are affected by sexual violence, most of whom are children or parents seeking support, and they are served by this organization.

The first letter I include in the RECORD supporting this legislation is from RAINN, which urges the House of Representatives and others to pass this legislation so that it can move quickly into the position to be signed by the President.

RAINN,

Washington, DC, November 27, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
Hon. SUSAN BROOKS,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader,*  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
Hon. LOIS FRANKEL,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS: RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, urges the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act.

Every two minutes in America, someone is sexually assaulted. Every eight minutes, that individual is a child. The Senate-passed bill, which has RAINN's support and reflects months of bipartisan work and deliberation, is an important step forward in ensuring that young athletes can train and compete in the safe environments they deserve. The legislation strengthens and streamlines the process for reporting abuse of amateur athletes, and requires officials and coaches who work with prospective Olympians to undergo training on sexual abuse.

Survivors are reaching out to RAINN, which operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline, in record numbers. There has been a 21 percent increase in those contacting our hotline. Each day, RAINN's victim service programs provide support to approximately 600 individuals affected by sexual violence, assisting a record 19,432 people in October alone. Many who contact the Hotline are children or parents seeking support.

We urge the House of Representatives to advance this legislation, as passed by the Senate, without delay. Doing so will demonstrate a commitment to ensuring young athletes who dream of representing our nation at the highest levels can achieve their goals safely and in a respectful environment.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact RAINN with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

REBECCA W. O'CONNOR, Esq.,  
*Vice President of Public Policy.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, every 2 minutes in America, someone is sexually assaulted; every 8 minutes, that individual is a child.

Let me include in the RECORD a letter from the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association, and I would like to call out their names. These are all athletes: Dick Fosbury, track and field; Willie Banks, track and field; Allison Baver, speedskating; Carol Brown, rowing; Candace Cable, Paralympic track and field; Caryn Davies, rowing; Gary Hall, Sr., swimming; Micki King, diving; Carol Lewis, track and field; John Naber, swimming; Bill Toomey, track and field; Iris Zimmerman, fencing.

U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS  
ASSOCIATION.

An open letter from the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association to athletes everywhere:

We hear you.

We have heard your many stories detailing the sexual and emotional abuse you endured while training and competing in pursuit of your goals and your dreams. We applaud your individual and collective courage and conviction in coming forward and telling all . . . and calling out those who abused your trust.

We are both appalled by the actions of those who hurt you and deeply saddened by your suffering. For those whose stories we haven't heard (and may never hear), we respect your decision and your privacy . . . but also acknowledge the pain you feel in silence.

We are united in saying that there is no place for abuse in sport—at any age, at any level, in any venue. As Olympic and Paralympic alumni, we want you to know we are a family that stands strong for the ideals of the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

When we, as athletes, returned from past Games, we shared an understanding that "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity." Now we must ask how can athlete dignity be preserved when the responsible institutions fail so in their oversight?

So what shall we do? We shall continue to advocate for education and safe sport, to teach young boys and girls to recognize the signs of abuse and provide a safe place to speak without repercussion. Parents, coaches and trainers need to be educated to recognize the signs and learn how to behave properly in coaching situations. We shall support Title IX, the U.S. Center for SafeSport and pending federal legislation to protect our athletes.

For any of you who are currently in need (or know someone who is), the newly created and independent U.S. Center for SafeSport is available for confidential 24/7 reporting and crisis support:

SafeSport.org

24/7 SafeSport Crisis Helpline 866-200-0796

We know the power of commitment to a belief and to goals; our goal is that your experiences are never repeated. Together, we shall seek to create a way of life based on the joy of effort.

Together in sport,

United States Olympians and Paralympians Association Executive Committee

President Dick Fosbury—Track and Field, 1968

Willie Banks—Track and Field, 1980/1984/1988

Allison Baver—Speedskating, 2002/2006/2010

Carol Brown—Rowing 1976/1980/1984

Candace Cable—Paralympic Track and Field, 1980/1988/1992/1996, Alpine Skiing, 1992; Nordic Skiing, 1994/1998/2002/2006

Caryn Davies—Rowing, 2004/2008/2012

Gary Hall Sr.—Swimming, 1968/1972/1976

Micki King—Diving, 1968/1972

Carol Lewis—Track and Field, 1980/1984/1988

John Naber—Swimming, 1976

Bill Toomey—Track and Field, 1968

Iris Zimmerman—Fencing, 2000

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, likewise, I include in the RECORD a letter, dated November 16, 2017, from the CWLA, Child Welfare League of America, an organization that worked on this issue.



CWLA,

*Washington, DC, November 16, 2017.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
 Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*U.S. Senate.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN, LEADER PELOSI, CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY, CONGRESSMAN HOYER, SENATOR THUNE, AND SENATOR FEINSTEIN:

The Child Welfare League of America, after months of bipartisan work and deliberation, urges the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act.

This bipartisan legislation has now passed the Senate and we firmly believe it will help to address some of the recent reports of child sexual abuse that occurred against some of this nation's finest young athletes while training for the United States Olympic team. Based on past history and reports, CWLA believes that stronger legislative action is required so that this history does not continue to repeat itself.

Over these past several months we have been able to work with key congressional offices to enhance the responsibility and the accountability of U.S. Olympic organizations. Several parts of this bill, including the authorization and funding for the U.S. Center for Safe Sport, are critical to this accountability.

We hope the House of Representatives will act without delay so parents and young athletes can live out their dreams of competing on behalf of this country and do so with the assurance they will be safe and respected.

Thank you for your attention on behalf of children.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE JAMES-BROWN,  
*President/CEO, Child  
 Welfare League of  
 America.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. They have worked along with RAINN and have emphasized that the Nation's youngest have been impacted by this dastardly series of actions.

DC COALITION AGAINST  
 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,

*Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. SUSAN BROOKS,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
 Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. LOIS FRANKEL,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*U.S. Senate.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN, LEADER PELOSI, MS. BROOKS, MS. FRANKEL, MR. MCCARTHY, MR. HOYER, MR. THUNE, and MS. FEINSTEIN:

The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence urges the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act.

This bipartisan legislation is imperative to respond to the numerous disclosures of child sexual abuse by our nation's youngest and most accomplished athletes while they were training for the U.S. Olympics. Intervention and prevention measures through this legislation are desperately needed to keep our children safe and hold offenders and entities accountable for their actions and their silence. Authorization and funding for the U.S. Center for Safe Sport will be the first significant step toward this goal.

We ask the House of Representatives to swiftly and expeditiously pass this legislation to protect our young athletes and show them they are valued and deserve to excel in their chosen sport without fear of and violence from those they trust.

Thank you for your commitment to ending sexual abuse, please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of further assistance in this charge.

Sincerely,

KARMA COTTMAN,  
*Executive Director.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Professor Emeritus Howard M. Rubin from DePaul University who speaks about sexual abuse. "My wife, Barbara Blaine, knew the lasting damage that is caused when a child is abused having been a child victim."

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
 COLLEGE OF LAW,

*Chicago, Illinois, November 16, 2017.*

Re: SB.534/ HR 1973—Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
 Senator JOHN THUNE,  
 Representative SUSAN BROOKS,  
 Representative LOIS FRANKEL.

DEAR LAWMAKERS: I am writing to enthusiastically support S.534/HR 1973 and to express my appreciation for your work in drafting and advancing this legislation. In the wake of the deluge of sexual harassment scandals breaking on a daily basis, the American public is crying out for recognition of women's rights, and the rights of victims of sexual abuse and harassment.

While there is no way to quantify the struggles of one victim against another a young victim's childhood is indelibly harmed by sexual abuse. My wife, Barbara Blaine, knew the lasting damage that is caused when a child is abused having been a child victim. For her entire adult life she fought selflessly and tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of survivors, to prevent children from suffering abuse, and to hold accountable those responsible. Abusers and their enablers utilizing their power and status as shields against prosecution and retribution were dragged out into the light of justice and accountability by Barbara's ceaseless crusade as advocate.

One of Barbara's passions was confronting unfair statute of limitations. They protected abusers and punished young victims unable to confront their abuse till later in life. The language in S.534 that extends statute of limitations for victims of child sexual abuse pertaining to federal crimes is a tribute to her efforts.

Barbara cast a bright light against the darkness, but tragically, her flame was snuffed out far too soon. She left this world suddenly and before she could finish her life's work. It is upon us now to stoke the embers left in the wake of that lifetime, that

her legacy might live on forever through S.534, and cast such a spark so as to permanently light the way towards justice for those who have been abused.

I would consider it an honor to be included in the list of supporters for S.534.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M RUBIN,  
*Professor Emeritus.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the National Children's Alliance, which has been working with other advocacy groups and, again, has done longstanding work against child abuse, supporting this legislation.

NATIONAL CHILDREN ALLIANCE,  
*Washington, DC, November 20, 2017.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*U.S. House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
 Hon. SUSAN BROOKS,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader,  
 House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*House of Representatives.*  
 Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
 Hon. LOIS FRANKEL,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN AND LEADER PELOSI:  
 DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY AND CONGRESSMAN HOYER:

DEAR SENATOR THUNE AND SENATOR FEINSTEIN:

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BROOKS AND CONGRESSWOMAN FRANKEL: The National Children's Alliance, in cooperation with numerous other advocacy groups, encourages the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act (S.534).

Having recently passed the Senate, this bipartisan legislation seeks to address the numerous reports of childhood sexual abuse that have occurred against our nation's young athletes. The recent press surrounding the United States' Olympic trainees only serves to heighten the need for a strong legislative response.

The NCA's longstanding work on child abuse leads us to believe that this legislation will increase the accountability of U.S. Olympic organizations and help ensure that incidences of this nature are not repeated. In particular, authorization and funding for the U.S. Center for Safe Sport is one of the critical provisions of this bill that will actively enhance U.S. Olympic organizations' responsibility in these matters. It establishes an office for education and outreach to develop the appropriate training, policies, and procedures to combat and prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of young athletes competing in athletic activities sponsored by national governing bodies and Paralympic sports organizations.

We hope that the House of Representatives will take swift action and stand with us in ensuring that our young athletes are protected as they strive to compete on behalf of our nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our youth.

Sincerely,

TERESA HUIZAR,  
*Executive Director,  
 National Children's Alliance.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. CHILD USA: Let's End Child Abuse and Neglect said

in a letter, which I include in the RECORD: “This bill would shine much needed sunlight on the problem of abuse in sports. It will protect children in the future.”

CHILD USA,  
November 20, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House,  
House of Representatives.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. JOHN THUNE,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
Hon. SUSAN BROOKS,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader,  
House of Representatives.*  
Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*House of Representatives.*  
Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*U.S. Senate.*  
Hon. LOIS FRANKEL,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN, LEADER PELOSI, CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY, CONGRESSMAN HOYER, SENATOR THUNE, SENATOR FEINSTEIN, CONGRESSWOMAN BROOKS, and CONGRESSWOMAN FRANKEL:

CHILD USA urges the House of Representatives to pass the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act. This bill would shine much needed sunlight on the problem of abuse in sports. It will protect children in the future.

The bill, as passed by the Senate, institutes important and minimally necessary measures to ensure the protection of children from abuse in sports: (1) mandatory reporting of child abuse to SafeSport and the authorities. Many states do not mandate such reporting and, therefore, the bill fills that need; (2) a rule against retaliation for those who report suspected abuse; (3) a limitation on coaches and other adults from taking a child to a place that is not observable by others; and (4) for the first time, makes amateur sports organizations accountable for abuse of children. Taken together, these are large steps forward.

The epidemic of child abuse in the United States needs Congress to lead the way on child protection with this bill. Children deserve the protections of the Protecting Young Victims Act and they need it now. Thank you for your efforts for the protection of America's children.

Sincerely,

MARCI A. HAMILTON,  
*CEO.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter from the United States Olympic Committee, dated January 24, 2018.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE,

*Colorado Springs, CO, January 24, 2018.*

TO TEAM USA: The athlete testimony that just concluded in the Nassar hearings framed the tragedy through the eyes of the victims and survivors, and was worse than our own worst fears. It was powerful because of the strength of the victims, survivors and parents, who so eloquently and forcefully told their stories and so rightfully demanded justice. The USOC should have been there to hear it in person, and I am deeply sorry that did not happen.

The purpose of this message is to tell all of Nassar's victims and survivors, directly, how incredibly sorry we are We have said it in other contexts, but we have not been direct enough with you. We are sorry for the pain caused by this terrible man, and sorry that you weren't afforded a safe opportunity to pursue your sports dreams. The Olympic family is among those that have failed you.

I know this apology is not enough. We have been working on taking steps at the USOC and mandating changes among National Governing Bodies to ensure this does not happen again. Our next steps will be these:

1. We Must Change the Culture of the Sport. This was the primary recommendation of the independent Deborah Daniels Report on USA Gymnastics and the athlete testimony underlined its importance. We heard athletes describe being unsure or unaware of how to report abuse and to whom, and sometimes even what constitutes abuse. We heard athletes describe being afraid or discouraged from reporting abuse. We heard athletes describe feeling hurt, betrayed, discounted and alone. Since October of last year, we have been engaged in direct talks with USAG leadership on this fundamental point. New leadership at the board level is critical and you recently saw three USAG board resignations. Further changes are necessary to help create a culture that fosters safe sport practice, offers athletes strong resources in education and reporting, and ensures the healing of the victims and survivors. This includes a full turnover of leadership from the past, which means that all current USAG directors must resign.

2. We Must Change the Governance Structure of the NGB. We need to help USA Gymnastics better support its mission, which is to provide the best resources and safest environment for athletes to train and compete. We have strongly considered decertifying USAG as a National Governing Body. But USA Gymnastics includes clubs and athletes who had no hand in this and who need to be supported. We believe it would hurt more than help the athletes and their sport. But we will pursue decertification if USA Gymnastics does not fully embrace the necessary changes in their governance structure along with other mandated changes under review right now.

3. We Must Know Who Knew What and When. The USOC has decided to launch an investigation by an independent third party to examine how an abuse of this proportion could have gone undetected for so long. We need to know when complaints were brought forward and to who. This investigation will include both USAG and the USOC, and we believe USAG will cooperate fully. We will make the results public.

4. We Must Support Safe Sport Victims and Survivors. Team USA safe sport assault victims and survivors need access to testing, treatment and counseling. The USOC will devote substantial funds to help provide these resources to victims and survivors. We are working on the details of how this funding will become available to athletes and will communicate them soon.

I hope that all members of Team USA remember that the USOC ombudsman office is always available to provide free, independent and confidential help to athletes with concerns or questions about safe sport or other matters. Contact information, along with other helpful athlete resources, are here.

In order to bring even more focus and urgency to these important points, the USOC board of directors has mobilized a board-level working group chaired by independent board member Susanne Lyons.

Finally, I invite any member of Team USA to communicate with me or Ms. Lyons directly if there is more that you think the Olympic family can or should be doing for you and your families.

Sincerely,

SCOTT BLACKMUN,  
*Chief Executive Officer.*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. POE for his long-standing work on these issues, the two

House cosponsors, and the Senator, and I want to end with, with that volcanic action, there was no reaction, a deafening silence. Let us, with the passage of this bill, begin the journey of commitment, along with our acknowledgment of the Me Too movement that we will never be silent again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 534, the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act”.

This bill will help prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities.

This is a reasonable and important measure that is intended to protect young athletes from abuse and preserve the sanctity of sports associated with the U.S. Olympic Committee—the organization responsible for preparing and training young athletes who might one day represent our Nation competitively all over the world.

Children deserve to fully enjoy the innocence of their youth—by exploring the curiosities of the world, taking pleasure in the arts, and participating in sports—free from abuse.

Sexual abuse of children and youth is an abhorrent practice that is intolerable in any context, and we must take appropriate measures to eliminate it from youth sports.

Young people look to adults to protect them and keep them safe. We all have a responsibility to do so. With S. 534, we have an opportunity to ensure that individuals abide by this duty.

Certain other professionals—such as doctors, dentists, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and daycare workers, are already bound by law to report suspected abuse to law enforcement. S. 534 will require the same of adults who interact with young athletes in connection with sports activities organized by the national governing bodies of various sports.

The urgent need for this legislation is best illustrated by the horrible abuse and exploitation of numerous young gymnasts at the hands of Dr. Larry Nassar, who victimized young athletes participating in USA Gymnastics over the course of 20 years. The stories of abuse and suffering of these young women are heartbreaking.

Many complaints of sexual and emotional abuse by Nassar and others went unreported for years—allowing coaches, instructors, and doctors to repeatedly victimize gymnasts as young as six years old.

The shocking failure of anyone to report accusations to law enforcement, or even keep track of complaints internally, made it possible for some of these predators to commit multiple, horrific acts over time.

We entrust the care of our children and young athletes in the hands of those we hope to uphold that trust and not abuse it.

One of the more than 150 girls and women victimized by Dr. Nassar was recently quoted as saying, “He has everything he needs to be an incredible leader. He has the personality . . . the skill . . . the knowledge. And he's using that to prey on people . . . what a waste.”

Last week, a Michigan judge sentenced Nassar to a prison sentence of up to 175 years. The judge described Nassar's assault of scores of girls and women, under the pretense that he was treating them, as “precise,



calculated, manipulative, devious and despicable.”

We must continue to do more to help protect our young athletes, and this bill will greatly assist in that effort. However, I must note a concern with a change the bill before us would make to the Senate-passed version of S. 534. The bill unanimously passed by the Senate would authorize funding to be provided to the U.S. Center for Safe Sport in the amount of \$1 million for each of the next five years.

Unfortunately, the version of the bill before us strips this funding authorization. I believe we should have taken up the Senate bill, without amendment. Safe Sport is charged with important responsibilities under this bill—with respect to receiving and investigating allegations of abuse and setting policies to prevent future abuse. It is critical that we ensure that the Center is provided the resources for those things to be done immediately and effectively.

By doing so, I hope we will prevent the type of abuse and suffering perpetrated by people like Larry Nassar.

In a recent open letter from the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association to athletes everywhere, they wrote: “The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. Now we must ask how can athlete dignity be preserved when the responsible institutions fail so in their oversight?”

In an apology letter to Team USA from the United States Olympic Committee issued last week, the Committee admitted that it had failed its young athletes.

While the USA Gymnastics scandal is unfortunate, let it be an example and incentive to prevent such abuse from happening again.

Accordingly, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act” is a necessary measure to ensure young athletes in this country are able to pursue their athletic dreams in safe environments, free of the fear of being victimized by predators.

I thank the many organizations that have worked hard to advance this legislation, including Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the Nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization.

I’d like to enter into the record a letter from RAINN, which indicates survivors are reaching out to its National Sexual Assault Hotline in record numbers, at a 21 percent increase.

Each day approximately 600 individuals affected by sexual violence are served, most of whom are children or parents seeking support.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas, not only for her support of the legislation, but also for her long-time working on these issues of victims of crime, and her involvement in legislation in the past and in the future on matters such as this.

This is not a happy event, Mr. Speaker. This legislation, as Mr. Bishop said,

it is unfortunate that Congress had to get involved in this issue. Congress is going to get involved, and we are going to try to rectify the problems of the past and hold people accountable for crimes in the future.

We are talking about the symbol of everything that is good, and right, and beautiful about America: these Olympics, the Olympians, and particularly the gymnasts who represent America; the training they go through; the zeal for which they represent our country and work. Yet, while all of that was going on, bad things were happening to them.

Our gymnasts who just participated in the last Olympics, who won medals, gold medals, they endured abuse, yet they went forward to represent our country in the United States Olympics.

People who harm those girls and other athletes, male and female, they need to be held accountable, not just Larry Nassar, but other people need to be held accountable. This is where law enforcement needs to be involved.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former judge, and I want to commend the judge in this case, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, for allowing all of these victims to testify in open court. They had the courage to come forward and tell very difficult things, things that are difficult for us to even listen to here on the House floor. They said it, and they wanted the criminal to know what he had done to them impacted them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the judge for allowing that, but also the sentence that she imposed. I want to read a few more of the statements, Mr. Speaker:

Jessica Rodriguez: “USA Gymnastics should be held accountable for each and every one of these acts of abuse they allowed to happen.”

Taryn Look: “I was still a child. . . . I wanted to end my life.”

Mattie Larson: “I was at the height of my career at 19, and the Olympics were just a year away, and I just couldn’t take any more of the abuse. I was broken. Larry, my coaches, and USA Gymnastics turned a sport I fell in love with as a kid to my personal living hell.”

Mr. Speaker, all of these brave Americans came forward and testified about what had happened to them. And we should—they are all Olympians for that. They all deserve the gold medal for what they did representing our country and their strength and their courage to testify in open court about what happened to them.

The defendant, the convicted criminal, wrote a letter to the judge, Mr. Speaker, saying he couldn’t take all of this abuse against him for having to listen to all of the statements by the victims. Are you kidding me? He is not the victim. He is the criminal, and he belongs in jail.

He belongs in jail, as these victims have said, for the rest of his life, to keep him away from little girls. And I am glad that that is where he is going,

but he is not a victim. Because of the mental abuse that he caused on victims of crime, he needs to remember what he has done. And I am glad that we have finally got this legislation passed in such a quick method. It is proof, Mr. Speaker, that we can work pretty fast, we also can work in a bipartisan manner, and we can also work with the Senate getting legislation that is important to America passed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read one last statement, and I include in the RECORD the 133 written statements that I have, subject to length limitation in the RECORD.

#### STATEMENTS BY 133 PEOPLE

Kyle Stephens: “Little girls don’t stay little forever, they grow into strong women that return to destroy your world.”

Jessica Thomashow: “What you did to me was twisted. You manipulated me and my family. How dare you.

Donna Markham (Speaking on behalf of her daughter, Chelsey, who killed herself 10 years ago.): “In 2009, she took her own life. She couldn’t deal with the pain anymore. Every day I miss her, every day. It all started with him.”

Jade Capua: “I am no longer broken by you. Every day I grow a new strength and look into the mirror to see a strong, unbreakable person. Nothing will ever take away what you’ve done to me or to the others that started behind me. However, we can walk free and radiate the strength that we’ve gained from your horrific acts, something you will never be able to do.”

Alexis Moore: “I don’t like the word victim. I am a survivor, but more so I am me. Those 10 years are a part of my story. They have helped define who I am today.”

Olivia Cowan: On Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics:

“If they would have taken action when it was first reported, they would have saved me.”

Nicole Soos: “I thought he was a famous doctor. There was no way he would do anything inappropriately in front of my mom. I was wrong.”

Ashley Erickson: “Today I can say I’m finally ready to face you . . . Why did you do this? You were the adult, you were the doctor.”

Rebecca Mark: “He molested me and he molested me with my mom in the room.”

Bethany Bauman: “I am 100% confident, that if he had not been caught, he would have continued to do this for the rest of his life.”

Kate Mahon: “By publicly speaking out against Larry Nassar, I’m not just speaking out for myself. I’m speaking out for all the girls and women of the past, present, and future that have been or will be affected by sexual assault.”

Danielle Moore: “I hope being reduced to a (prison) number will define you as it defined me for so many years. I will no longer be known as a number, and I will be Dr. Danielle Moore.”

Melissa Imrie: “Everybody’s story that I listened to today is just an echo of everything that I’ve went through. They’re just speaking like it’s my voice.”

Megan Halicek: “As I stand here, I still flash back to the feelings of fear, laying frozen in his office, my sweating shaking body, adrenaline pumping, painfully clutching the sides of the table, waiting for the sick treatment to be over.”

Jamie Dantzschler: “There is no therapy, no cure for monsters like you. You are pure evil.”

Brianne Randall: "I was a 17-year-old that reported your abuse to police in 2004. You used my vulnerability at the time to sexually abuse me. I reported you to police immediately and had a rape kit done . . . you had the audacity to tell [police] I misunderstood the treatment because I wasn't comfortable with my body. How dare you? Sadly they took your word instead of mine."

Anna Ludes (video statement): "I felt so special and lucky that Larry Nassar would take the time to help me. But it turned out that he was a molester."

Lindsey Schuett (video statement): "If anyone deserves to never see the light of day again it is this man."

Marion Siebert: "You hindered the trajectories of our lives that we and our parents worked so very hard for, and changed the rest of our lives in ways that we're still realizing and dealing with every day. This is what makes this crime so heinous."

Katelyn Skrabis (statement read on her behalf): "Nothing can change what Larry Nassar did to me."

Taylor Stevens (statement read on her behalf): "Because of you my life has been forever changed. I have to live with the fact that I am a victim of sexual assault."

Breanne Rata (statement read on her behalf): "My only relief is knowing my picture is no longer on the wall of your Michigan State office."

Erin McCann: "I was told over and over again how honored I should feel for seeing Dr. Nassar . . . It was no honor. It was disgust. It took more than it should have from me."

Jennifer Rood-Bedford: "The road to healing looks steep from where I am standing now, but I am a warrior."

Gina Nichols (on behalf of her daughter, Olympic hopeful Maggie Nichols): "You are not a real doctor. You are a serial child molester, a pedophile."

Tiffany Lopez Thomas: "I imagine hitting you if I ever had the opportunity to see you again. Instead I will allow my thoughts and my feelings to hit your heart."

Jeanette Antolin: "You made me believe you were my friend. I truly believe you are the spawn of Satan. There's no therapy that will fix the evil that's deep inside you."

Kayla Spicher: "I was sexually assaulted, but I was unaware, not because I was naive, but because I was a child."

Gwen Anderson: "I still remember him saying, 'It's OK. I know you're not used to being touched there, but it will feel better.'"

Thomas Brennan (Gwen's coach): "For the record, go to hell . . . What you did to everyone else who trusted you and sent girls your way is disgusting, reprehensible, unforgivable."

Amanda Thomashow: "Larry, the thing you didn't realize when you were sexually assaulting me . . . was that you were building an army of survivors who would ultimately expose you for who you are. From this rubble we will rise as an army of female warriors."

Jaime Doski: "I want to show my family how strong I am and that I'm a survivor."

Jenelle Moul: "I hope you are never able to walk outside those [prison] walls as a free man. Most importantly I hope all of the survivors you hurt are able to heal from the damage you have done."

Madeline Jones: "Before every appointment, I cried in the bathroom. After every appointment, I couldn't wait to get home and shower."

Amanda Barterian: "I refuse to let Larry Nassar take anything more from here. He's already taken enough."

Jennifer Hayes: "You parted my legs and forcefully pushed your dry fingers in my vagina . . . You had created a secure world where you brainwashed everyone around you."

Nicole Walker: "I have anxiety and sleep disorders all because of what you did to me."

Chelsea Williams: "He manipulated me with such ease, with such finesse. This is perhaps what scares me the most about him."

Stephanie Robinson: "While I came to this stand as a victim, I leave as victor."

Carrie Hogan: "I am broken, I'm tired, I feel like life has been desperately sucked out of me."

Helena Weick: "This is not my shame anymore. It's yours."

Amanda Cormier: "These things happened to me in his office long ago were not short lived and uncomfortable moments. They were lifelong traumas that changed the way I walk in the world."

McKayla Maroney (statement read on her behalf): "He abused my trust. He abused my body and he left scars on my psyche that will never go away. It all started when I was 13 or 14 years old. It didn't end until I left the sport."

Annette Hill: "As your former patient, I trusted you, Larry. You sexually abused me."

Aly Raisman: "I will not rest until every last trace of your influence on this sport has been destroyed like the cancer it is."

Lyndsy Carr Gamet: "I was a carefree silly little girl until this happened and afterwards there was a cloud and the cloud has followed me into every relationship in my life, especially the most important ones."

Taylor Cole: "This man has broken my world."

Jessica Smith: "I'm mortified that I didn't understand exactly what that meant at that time."

Arianna Guerrero: "I am only 16. I should not even know what an impact statement is. I shouldn't know what the inside of a courtroom looks like. You have a hard time looking at me now. But you didn't seem to have a problem when I was half naked on your table."

Nicole Reeb: "[Michigan State University's] response has compounded my pain. I am frustrated and outraged at the administration's inability to take responsibility for handing over children and girls to a predator for almost 20 years. I no longer bleed green."

Christine Harrison: "You knew what you were doing was wrong and you only asked for forgiveness because you got caught."

Jessica Tarrant (recorded video): "I wasn't even alive yet the first time he sexually assaulted someone and I was only one when he was first reported."

Brian Tarrant (Jessica's father): "I just want to say, Larry, you did nothing to defeat her."

Mary Fisher-Follmer (on behalf of her two daughters, Katherine Payne and Maureen Payne): "As you deteriorate in prison, I want you to remember you lost."

Katie Rasmussen: "No one did anything because no one believed me. They didn't understand how such a respectable doctor would do something like that. And I don't understand how a 14-year-old could make that up."

Madeline Johnson: "I realized the only way I could get him to stop was if I lied and told him pain was all gone."

Chelsea Zerfas: "I avoided going to practice when I knew I had to see him . . . I felt like I couldn't breathe and I'd tremble in fear."

Samantha Ursch: "I'm not pretending it didn't happen anymore. I'm just moving past it."

Kara Johnson: "The framed photos of patients on his wall told an incredible story of a doctor who could heal anyone."

Clasina Syrov: "When girls came forward and told an adult the adults didn't listen.

Why didn't they listen? What good is it to teach children to tell an adult if the grown-up doesn't listen, doesn't take action?"

Brad Johnson (Kara and Madeline's father): "Your story is dark, sinister, and pure evil."

William Michell (Larissa's father): "You sowed a destructive black seed in my daughter's innocent mind and body."

Amy Labadie: "Come hell or high water we'll take every last one of you down that could have stopped this monster."

Ashley Yost: "That's something a 25-year-old shouldn't have to do . . . sleep in their parents' bed because they're afraid of a monster."

Marie Anderson: "While his fingers were inside of me, he would apply pressure to the outside of my lower abdomen and massage the inside of my vaginal area."

Kassie Powell: "You hid for years behind Olympic rings and a Spartan [Michigan State University's mascot] head, but now there is nowhere left for you to hide."

Doug Powell (Kassie's father): "I want you to fear and cry, and no one to listen. I want you to remain alive for your eternal life in those [prison] walls."

Megan Ginter: "I am done being ashamed of something that was out of my control."

Katherine Gordon: "Sexual assault is distant until you realize each girl in the news is a broken mirror."

Katelynne Hall: "What if someone would have taken the abuse seriously?"

Anya Gillengarten: "I thought the things that Larry Nassar did to me would send me to Hell."

Amanda McGeachie: "MSU has failed to represent us; failed to respect us; failed to take accountability for our safety. After being a proud Spartum alum . . . I now feel ashamed to have represented a school who will not take accountability."

Lindsay Woolever: "You were in the best position to help people but you chose to do the opposite."

Hannah Morrow: "Life's handed me lemons, and you'd best believe that I am well prepared to make lemonade."

Jordyn Wieber: "Even though I am a victim, I won't live my life as one. I am an Olympian."

Alexis Alvarado: "I was only a child when this abuse started. I didn't know what he was doing was wrong."

Morgan McCaul: "You violated the very principle of your calling: Do no harm."

Trinea Gonczar: "It's time for me to stand up for these little girls and not stand behind you anymore. Goodbye, Larry. May god bless your dark broken soul."

Larissa Michell Boyce: "Today is a new day. Today I am claiming my freedom from you. Today I am breaking free from the chains you put me in 20 years ago. Today I am finally free. I am standing here reclaiming the voice that you stole from me. I am reclaiming my confidence. I am reclaiming the power you took from me. I am reclaiming Larissa Michell, that innocent girl you abused. I am no longer that little girl. I am taking her back, I have the control now."

Bayle Pickel: "How could you do something so horrible to an innocent young girl?"

Adam Boyce (Larissa's husband): "It was and still is very real for us."

Bailey Lorenzen: "While my mind heals and filters out the evil sickness that you unwillingly bestowed upon my body your mind will get darker and darker and you will hate yourself almost as much as everyone hates you in this room right now."

Valerie Webb: "To all my sisters, we need to stand, fight back and not rest until this mess is up mopped up; each and every crumb."

Whitney Mergens: "All I want is for this darkness to go away. I don't want to look in

the mirror and have to convince myself that I'm okay. I want to stand there and see a strong woman other than a damaged one. Standing here today I know the light is near."

Marta Stern: "I will no longer carry the weight of what you did to me so long ago. The burden is yours."

Melody Posthuma-Vanderveen: "We need to call out the deeper issue at hand. We live in a society where action is not taken when it's most needed."

Emma Ann Miller: "[Michigan State University] is still sending bills to my mom for appointments where I was sexually assaulted."

Amanda Smith: "I will not stop speaking until I am heard, until we are heard, until things are changed."

Taylor Livingston: "Everyone who continued to allow this man, knowing full well what he was doing, is to blame."

Lindsey Lemke: "Larry, I hope you . . . and all others realize you've pissed off the wrong army of women."

Christy Lemke-Akeo (mother of gymnast Lindsey Lemke): "These girls had no idea this wasn't a medical procedure."

Krista Wakeman: "You're a sick man, Larry. I hope you rot in prison because that's where you belong."

Paula Daniels (on behalf of daughter Samantha Daniels): "When you lay down to sleep at night I want you to see every little girl's face that you've abused. Hundreds of girls Larry, innocent girls who trusted you—and know these little girls are all grown-up now and I pray that they haunt you every single day."

Alliree Gingerich (statement read on her behalf): "Not one day goes by where I don't replay the abuse my head."

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is what Natalie Woodland said: "I am strong, and I am beautiful, and I am bold, and no one, especially you"—Nassar—"can take that away from me. . . . While standing up here, I'm finally realizing that I'm not alone."

And she is not alone. We are on her side. We should be on the side of victims of crime, and this legislation will promote a better atmosphere: a lawful, good atmosphere for our gymnasts and other athletes to work in. The people who committed these crimes need to be held accountable, and society has started with the first culprit, Larry "Lecherous" Nassar, and there should be more to follow.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following statements from the Nassar trial:

Megan Farnsworth (statement read on her behalf): "He took away something I can't get back. He took it 18 years ago when he did his procedures, and again when I was adult and learned what he had been doing."

Kourtney Weidner (statement read on her behalf): "Through these years I've experienced increase in anxiety and stress."

Charla Burill (statement read on her behalf): "You were the doctor who would give me a hug, who seemed to understand."

Lauren Michalak (statement read on her behalf): "It makes me feel disgusted that a man that was so respected in the community could take advantage of a girl who was only in 8th grade."

Sherry Bradley (mother of Vanasia Bradley): "I am sick to my stomach with disgust and betrayal."

Presley Allison: "I was abused while my own mother was in the room."

Kamerin Moore: "You molested a little girl who had just lost her father . . . you used my father's death as another opportunity to manipulate the trust I put in you."

Catherine Hannum: "What he did to me . . . is disgusting, vile, and wrong. I am going to find my sense of self again and it starts with this letter."

Jessica Chedler Rodriguez: "USA Gymnastics should be held accountable for each and every one of these acts of abuse they allowed to happen."

Taryn Look: "I was still a child . . . I wanted to end my life."

Mattie Larson: "I was at the height of my career at 19 and the Olympics were just a year away and I just couldn't take any more of the abuse. I was broken. Larry, my coaches, and USA Gymnastics turned the sport I fell in love with as a kid to my personal living hell."

Whitney Burns: "As this man's hands were touching places I had never let any man touch, I told myself I could make it one more second without the anger exploding inside me. 'One more second, Whitney, you can make it one more second.'"

Isabell Hutchins (statement read on her behalf): "I couldn't accept the fact that it happened to me and I was in denial for a long time."

Natalie Woodland: "I am strong, and I am beautiful, and I am bold, and no one, especially not you can take that away from me . . . While standing up here I'm finally realizing that I'm not alone."

Jillian Swinehart: "You have to be the most sick and twisted person ever to do that to young girls."

Anne Swinehart (Jillian's mother): "To think, I let this happen to my child while I was sitting right there."

Alison Chauvette: "He was in no way treating my body. He was, however using his position, manipulating me as a person changing the person I was, preying on me, a young girl, to fulfil his sick fantasies."

Anna Dayton: "You were supposed to be the good guy. Instead you used your power and your authority to take advantage of me, to take away my trust, and strip me of my innocence."

Olivia Venuto (statement read on her behalf): "I know that we will overcome this."

Sarah (no last name provided): "By coming forward, we victims of Larry Nassar can help see that justice is served."

Kristen Thelen: "In that moment of terror and confusion, I completely froze."

Alexandra Romano (statement read by her sister Danielle Romano): "The pain is just beginning for you. You disgust me and everyone else in this world and like many other girls said, today is the last day you are anything to me. You are a sad excuse for a human being and from now on you're dead to us."

Jessica Howard (statement read on her behalf): "My mother blames herself."

Arianna Castillo: "He told me I had to go through pain in order to be successful in the sport."

Selena Brennan: "Today is your time to face me. I want you to continue to look at me while I speak because that is the attention I deserve . . . I want you to know you have not defeated me."

Kaylee McDowell: "My body is scarred by you . . . You covered me with your illness

and I will be contaminated by you for the rest of my life."

Emily Morales: "He would rub one hand up and down my leg and butt as the other ungloved hand penetrated me . . . He talked about how my muscles were so tight."

Abigail Mealy: "The final level of your horrible pyramid of lies is when I had to lie on a table in your basement next to your lit fireplace and your children's toys surrounding me while you 'treated' me for my back problems."

Ashley Bremer: "He was only acting as my friend to gain my trust."

Brooke Hylek: "All I ever wanted to do was feel better and go back to the sport I loved without any pain."

Abigail Bergeon: "I was a victim of Larry Nassar but I will not let that define me."

Emily Meinke: "My initial gut reaction was to question the technique . . . I couldn't help but wonder how inserting his bare fingers in my vagina was supposed to make my pain disappear. Since I hadn't even had my period yet I assumed it was my vagina but I really didn't know for sure."

Morgan Valley (statement read by her mother, Dawn Valley): "This so-called doctor took advantage of my pain and my innocence."

Marty Valley (father of Morgan Valley): "We're overcome by anger and guilt for not protecting our beautiful, precious daughter. As difficult as it is for us as parents, we know it's nothing compared to what these young women are going through."

Christina Barba: "We know that a single candle can light a dark room. Imagine what all these flames can do. We will not live in darkness. We will burn brightly. To all the abusers and predators and harassers and enablers, we will burn your pedestals and hiding places to the ground. All your darkest secrets will be brought to light. We are strong and will not let you snuff out our light. We will burn brightly and not with hate but with hope."

Makayla Thrush: "Nobody should ever have to question their doctor, especially one who was the doctor for the US Olympic team."

Sterling Riethman: "Larry did not violate Jane Doe. He did not sexually assault Jane Doe . . . he violated real girls and real women. Well, those little girls are here today and we said it before and we'll say it again, time's up. The truth will come out."

Kaylee Lorincz: "You made a critical mistake. You underestimated the mind, power, and will of your victims, these accomplished athletes."

Rachael Denhollander (Her testimony to the IndyStar began the legal case): "I can call what you did evil and wicked because it was . . . I can call it evil because I know what goodness is. And this is why I pity you."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass S. 534, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1745

**ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR OPENING AN ACCOUNT OR OBTAINING A FINANCIAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE**

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1457) to establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1457

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. MAKING ONLINE BANKING INITIATION LEGAL AND EASY.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AFFILIATE.**—The term “affiliate” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(2) **DRIVER'S LICENSE.**—The term “driver's license” means a license issued by a State to an individual that authorizes the individual to operate a motor vehicle on public streets, roads, or highways.

(3) **FEDERAL BANK SECRECY LAWS.**—The term “Federal bank secrecy laws” means—

(A) section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b);

(B) section 123 of Public Law 91–508 (84 Stat. 1116); and

(C) subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) **FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “federally recognized Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104(a) of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131(a)).

(5) **FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “financial institution” means—

(A) an insured depository institution;

(B) an insured credit union; or

(C) any affiliate of an insured depository institution or insured credit union.

(6) **FINANCIAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE.**—The term “financial product or service” has the meaning given the term in section 1002(15) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481(15)).

(7) **INSURED CREDIT UNION.**—The term “insured credit union” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

(8) **INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.**—The term “insured depository institution” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(9) **ONLINE SERVICE.**—The term “online service” means any Internet-based service, such as a Web site or mobile application.

(10) **PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.**—The term “personal identification card” means an identification document issued by a State, local government, or federally recognized Indian Tribe to an individual solely for the purpose of identification of that individual.

(11) **PERSONAL INFORMATION.**—The term “personal information” means the information displayed on or electronically encoded on a driver's license or personal identification card that is reasonably necessary to fulfill the purpose and uses permitted by subsection (b).

(12) **STATE.**—The term “State” means any State, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, or the United States Virgin Islands.

(13) **SCAN.**—The term “scan” means the act of using a device or software to decipher, in an electronically readable format, personal information displayed on or electronically encoded on a driver's license or personal identification card.

(b) **USE OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—When an individual initiates a request through an online service to open an account with a financial institution or obtain a financial product or service from a financial institution, the financial institution may record personal information from a scan of the driver's license or personal identification card of the individual, or make a copy or receive an image of the driver's license or personal identification card of the individual, and store or retain such information in any electronic format for the purposes described in paragraph (2).

(2) **USES OF INFORMATION.**—Except as required to comply with Federal bank secrecy laws, a financial institution may only use the information obtained under paragraph (1)—

(A) to verify the authenticity of the driver's license or personal identification card;

(B) to verify the identity of the individual; and

(C) to comply with a legal requirement to record, retain, or transmit the personal information in connection with opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service.

(3) **DELETION OF IMAGE.**—A financial institution that makes a copy or receives an image of a driver's license or personal identification card of an individual in accordance with paragraph (1) shall, after using the image for the purposes described in paragraph (2), permanently delete, within a reasonable amount of time—

(A) any image of the driver's license or personal identification card, as applicable; and

(B) any copy of any such image.

(c) **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to amend, modify, or otherwise affect any State or Federal laws that govern a financial institution's disclosure and security of personal information that is not publicly available.

(d) **RELATION TO STATE LAW.**—The provisions of this section shall preempt and supersede any State law that conflicts with a provision of this section, but only to the extent of such conflict.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as financial service products continue to merge with the ever-evolving world of technology, the opportunities to reach unbanked and underserved households also continue to increase. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 7 percent of the U.S. population is

unbanked, and 19.9 percent is underbanked.

The FDIC has concluded previously that mobile banking is well positioned to meet the day-to-day financial service needs of underbanked consumers as well as consumers at risk of account closure. Providing mobile financial services products to these households has shown to improve their financial outcomes by giving consumers more control over their finances, which helps households avoid burdensome fees and allows them to manage necessary payments more conveniently.

Further FDIC research suggests that nearly three-quarters of all underbanked households have access to a smartphone and that more than one-third of underbanked households used mobile banking in the past year. In particular, the FDIC found that mobile financial services improved account stability by helping underserved consumers successfully manage and maintain bank accounts.

Unfortunately, access to mobile financial service products is not equal across the United States. The Making Online Banking Initiation Legal and Easy Act remedies this lack of parity by establishing a uniform policy nationwide, allowing a financial institution to record personal information from a driver's license for the purpose of opening a bank account with a scan or copy.

The MOBILE Act creates uniform access to helpful financial products and provides certainty to financial institutions to offer their full range of mobile banking products to all consumers nationwide.

While the MOBILE Act creates a consistent law across the United States, it is careful to protect consumer privacy information and existing State privacy laws. The bill requires financial institutions to delete all copies of a driver's license and personal identification after having used them for the permitted purposes of opening an account.

The legislation is also careful not to reduce any financial institution's commitment to comply with Federal and State laws aimed at preventing identity theft, financial fraud, money laundering, or know your customer and Customer Identification Programs.

A Federal Reserve report from 2016 found that mobile banking use was rising at relatively fast rates, reporting that 43 percent of all mobile phone owners with a bank account had used mobile banking in the past 12 months, up from 39 percent in 2014 and 33 percent in 2013.

Following this trend, the use of mobile banking will continue to grow, and the MOBILE Act ensures that every consumer across the country who wants to use a mobile banking product is able to do so. This bill was passed out of the Financial Services Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote.