

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1006

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte,

In light of the conclusion of the criminal proceedings against Dr. Larry Nassar, it is incumbent upon Congress to fully investigate the systemic failures of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Gymnastics that led to the abuse of hundreds of young women over the course of 25 years. Given that the chartering legislation of the USOC came through the House Committee on the Judiciary, our committee should conduct a comprehensive investigation, including hearings, to address the organizational failures that led to such horrific acts of abuse and develop potential legislation so that no more young athletes are forced to endure such trauma.

As you know, on Wednesday, January 24, former USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar was sentenced to up to 175 years in prison for sexually abusing over 150 young girls. During court proceedings, 156 women and girls came forward to testify about the horrific, despicable actions that Nassar had carried out for far too long as a USOC doctor.

The USOC was chartered by the *Amateur Sports Act of 1978*, which was originally referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. The law was later amended by the *Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act in 1998*. Congress has the proper jurisdiction to fully investigate the issue and develop legislative responses where necessary.

A hearing in the Committee on the Judiciary is needed in order to determine the facts of what happened at the USOC and USA Gymnastics that allowed this abuse to continue over the span of 25 years. Additionally, we need to ascertain whether this conduct is an isolated occurrence with USA Gymnastics or the issue is widespread across multiple USOC-sanctioned organizations. Finally, USOC should inform Congress on their actions to remedy this situation and prevent similar activity in the future.

With so many abused young women, it is clear that there existed a culture of institutionalized abuse within the USOC and USA Gymnastics and that a situation existed in which others no doubt had knowledge, yet turned a blind eye. The sentencing of Larry Nassar is not the end to this story. Too many questions remain, and answers are needed to prevent this from happening again.

It is incumbent on the Committee to look into this matter as soon as possible in order to get answers from the USOC and USA Gymnastics, and to protect millions of young girls across America from facing this same fate. The victims deserve answers, and our future Olympic athletes deserve to know they are safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karen C. Handel
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair of the House Republican Conference