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Dear Representatives,

We, the undersigned athletes, coaches, sports leaders, as well as athletic, civil rights, religious, sexual abuse, and child protection organizations, urge the members of the House of Representatives to pass the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act*. This bipartisan legislation has passed the Senate and represents months of collaboration.

Research shows that the more elite the athlete, the more likely they are to be sexually abused by someone within their own entourage. Indeed, during the time that this legislation has been contemplated, some of our country's best athletes have come forward to disclose their sexual abuse by those designated to protect them.

The legislation is necessary to fill gaps in legal protections for athletes not participating in school-sponsored sports. It makes all members of youth-sport organizations that travel across interstate lines mandatory reporters, much like teachers and physicians. The bill makes it easier for victims to recover monetary damages against their molester. It also authorizes the U.S. Center for SafeSport; a fairly new centralized office, that will be formally responsible for investigations and sanctions against sexual abusers. It also removes any doubt that the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S. Code § 220501, et. seq. will not prevent a national governing body, like USA Swimming or USA Gymnastics, from investigating and sanctioning coaches found to have committed sexual abuse.

Most important, the legislation will require the members of the United States Olympic movement to address sexual abuse. Previously, when executives and administrators knew serious sexual abuse, they made conscious, deliberate decisions to deny their responsibility for addressing pedophilia and abuse in sport. Some recent stories that better detail the responsibility-shifting in the Olympic movement include:

- Will Hobson and Steven Rich: Every Six Weeks for More than 36 Years: When will sex abuse in
 Olympic sports end?; An Athlete Accused her Coach of Sex Abuse. Olympic officials stayed on
 the sideline; and Documents: USOC alerted to sex abuse problems long before taking action,
 Washington Post.
- Tim Evans, Mark Alesia, and Marisa Kwiatkowski: <u>A 20-year toll: 368 Gymnasts Allege Sexual Exploitation</u>, *IndyStar*.
- Alexandra Starr: <u>Pushing the Limit</u>; <u>What the U.S. Olympic Committee can and can't do about sexual abuse</u>, *Harper's Magazine*.
- Nancy Hogshead-Makar: #MeToo Shows Need for Tighter Rules in Club and Olympic Sports, ESPN.
- Diana Nyad: My Life After Sexual Assault, New York Times.

- Nancy Armour and Rachel Axon: <u>Executive Director Out at USA Taekwondo After Handling of Misconduct Cases</u>, <u>USOC did not heed sexual abuse warnings in 2004, 2005</u>, and <u>Attorneys Call for USA Swimming Chief to be Fired</u>, *USA Today*.
- Scott Reid: <u>Senate committee to discuss mandatory sexual abuse reporting requirements for youth sports governing bodies</u>, *Orange County Register*.

Please contact any of us if you have questions or would like to be briefed on this issue. Your support is vital to ensure the safety of our future athletes.

Nancy Hogshead-Makar, J. CEO, Champion Women

Organizations

AAUW

A.C.H.E. Foundation (Abused Children Heard

Everywhere)

Alliance of Women Coaches

Athlete Ally

The Association of Title IX Administrators

(ATIXA)

Atlanta Women for Equality

Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of

Children

California Women's Law Center

Champion Women

CHILD USA

Child's World America

Coaching Peace

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center

ECPAT-USA

End Rape On Campus

Equal Rights Advocates

Feminist Majority Foundation

Gender Violence Program; Harvard Law

School

Girls Inc.

INOBTR (I Know Better)

Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport

InSideOut Initiative

KidSafe Foundation

Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal

Defense and Education Fund

MassKids; Prevent Child Abuse

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Mission Kids Child Advocacy

National Alliance of Social Workers in Sports

National Coalition Against Violent Athletes

National Consortium for Academics and Sport

National Interscholastic Athletic

Administrators Association

National Organization for Women

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Women's Law Center

Pennsylvania Chapter of Children's Advocacy

Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams

The Redwoods Group

Safe and Sound Campaign

Safely Ever After, Inc.

Samaritan SafeChurch/SafePlaces

Sports & Fitness Industry Association

Stop Sexual Assault in Schools (SSAIS)

SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused

by Priests)

Support Center for Child Advocates

The Crime Victims Center dba Parents for

Megan's Law

The Family Tree/Prevent Child Abuse

Maryland

The Southwest Women's Law Center

Tucker Center for Research for Girls &

Women in Sport

Turning Point Counseling & Advocacy Center

Uri L'Tzedek, Awaken to Justice

Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.

West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services WomenCAN International Women's Resource Center Women's Law Project Wrestle Like A Girl, Inc.

Subject Matter Experts:

Nancy Hogshead-Makar, Esq., Swimming; 1980, 1984 Olympic Team, 3 Gold Medals; CEO, Champion Women

Jon Little, Esq., Saeed & Little, LLP Robert Allard, Esq., Corsiglia, McMahon and Allard, LLP

Marci Hamilton, Esq., CHILD USA
Diane L. Rosenfeld, Esq., Director, Gender
Violence Program Harvard Law School
Ed Williams, Esq., Biathlon; 1968 Olympic
Team, Former USOC Board Member, Former
USOC Athletes Advisory Council Member;
Stewart Occhipinti, LLP

Brett A. Sokolow, Esq., Executive Director, Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA)

Annie E. Clark, Executive Director, End Rape On Campus

Jody Redman, Passionate Educator, Advocate, Co-Founder, InSideOut Initiative Jess Davidson, Managing Director, End Rape on Campus

Mariah Burton Nelson, MPH, CAE, Basketball; DI Player, Survivor of Abuse in Age-Group Swimming, Author, NCAA Publication "Staying in Bounds" on Coaching Sexual Abuse

Joanna L. Grossman, Esq., Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law, Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Ed Semansky, Esq., Attorney & Psychotherapist

Matt Moore, PhD, MSW, Vice President, National Alliance of Social Workers in Sports Dawn Hawkins, Vice President, National Center on Sexual Exploitation John Manly, Esq., Manly, Stewart, & Finaldi *Chris Gavagan*, Director, *Coached into Silence* Documentary

Patricia Dailey Lewis, Esq., Executive Director, Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children

Abbie R. Newman, R.N., J.D., Chief Executive Officer, Mission Kids Child Advocacy

Rabbi Ari Hart, Founder Uri L'Tzedek, Awaken to Justice

Jetta Bernier, Executive Director, Massachusetts Citizens for Children Linda Crockett, Director, Samaritan Church/Safe Places

Diana Cutaia, Founder, Coaching Peace *Barbara Osborne*, Academic and Sports Law Expert

Sharon Pressman, Executive Director, CONTACT Rape Crisis Center Holly Kearl, Founder and Executive Director, Stop Street Harassment, Expert Gender Violence Issues

Jennifer Reisch, Esq., Legal Director, Equal Rights Advocates

Courtney Kiehl, Executive Director, A.C.H.E. Foundation (Abused Children Heard Everywhere)

Carrie Hastings, Psy.D., Track & Field, Hurdler and Sprinter, University of Notre Dame; Licensed Clinical and Sport Psychologist

Leslie Heywood, Ph.D., Runner, Professor of English and Creative Writing, Binghamton University, Author, "Pretty Good for a Girl" about Sexual Abuse by her Coach Kristen Woolley, Founder & Clinical Director,

Turning Point Counseling & Advocacy Center *Bill Clark*, CEO, Child's World America *Donna A. Lopiano, Ph.D.*, USA Softball Hall of Fame; Former CEO, Women's Sports Foundation; President, Sport Management Resources

Toni Van Pelt, President, National Organization for Women S. Daniel Carter, President, Safety Advisors for Educational Campuses, LLC Mitch Abrams, Psy.D., Sport Psychologist, Learned Excellence for Athletes Alison Gray, Executive Director; Pennsylvania Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams; http://penncac.org/

Frank Cervone, Executive Director; Support Center for Child Advocates; www.SCCALaw.org

Rebecca Gundzik, Esq., Gartenberg, Gelfand Hayton LLP

Dan Baum, Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Director; The Redwoods Group Foundation

John H. Feasel III, Esq., Operations Specialist, The Redwoods Group

Elite Athlete Leaders, including some survivors of abuse:

Han Xiao, Table Tennis, Chair, U.S. Olympic Committee Athletes' Advisory Council Monica Rowland, Modern Pentathlon; Member, USOC Athlete's Advisory Council Eli Bremer, Pentathlon; 2008 Olympian, USOC Athlete, Advisory Council Alternate Tara Profitt, 1984 and 2012 U.S. Paralympian; USOC Athlete Advisory Council Member, USATT Board Member, USATT AAC Chair

Donna de Varona, Swimming; 1960, 1964 Olympian, Two Gold Medals, Emmy-Winning Journalist; Women in Sport Advocate, Special Consultant to the U.S. Senate

Iris Zimmermann, Fencing; 2000 Olympian; Vice President, U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA)

Micki King, Springboard Diving; 1968 and 1972 Olympic Teams; 1972 Gold Medalist; First Chair, USOC Athlete's Advisory Council; Colonel, U.S. Air Force; Current Vice President of the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA)

Carol Lewis, Track & Field; 1980, 1984 & 1988 Olympian, Vice President of the U.S. Olympian & Paralympian Association (USOPA)

Caryn Davies, Esq., Rowing; 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Teams; 2008 and 2012 Gold Medalist; Former Athlete Representative, U.S. Rowing Board of Directors; Current Vice

President, U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA)

Martina Navratilova, Tennis; 59 Grand Slam Titles, 9 Wimbledon Singles Championships, Athlete's Rights Advocate, Broadcaster *Greg Louganis*, Diver, Four-time Olympian, Five Olympic Medals

Lyn St. James, Racecar Driver; Founder, Project Women in the Winner's Circle Nancy Lieberman, Basketball; Player and Coach in the WNBA; Assistant Coach NBA, Founder/President Nancy Lieberman Charities Gary Hall Jr., Swimming; Three-Time Olympian, Ten Olympic Medals; Olympic Hall of Fame Inductee; Sanford Health International Board

John Naber, Swimming; 1976 Olympic Champion, Former President of the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA)

Jessica Mendoza, Softball, 2-Time Olympian, 2004, 2008, Gold and Silver Medals, First Woman to Broadcast ESPN's Saturday Night Baseball

Suzette Moran, Swimming, DI College, Sexually Abused by Coach Mitch Ivey Michele Kurtzman Greenfield, Swimming; NCAA Champion, NCAA All-American, Survivor of Coaching Sexual Abuse Lindsay Garrett, Gymnastics; UC Berkeley Women's team 1995-1998; Survivor of Coach Sexual Abuse

Eliana Yankelev, Track and Field; Varsity Athlete at the University of Pennsylvania; Former GO! Athletes Collegiate Ambassador and SAAC President

Jancy Thompson, Swimming; Survivor Advocate, Site Supervisor at Sierra Vista Child & Family Services, Survivor of Coach Sexual Abuse

Dani Bostick, Swimmer, Coach Sexual Abuse Survivor, Teacher

Katie Hnida, Football; First Woman to Play and Score in an NCAA Division I Game; Sexually Assaulted by Teammate Betsy Mitchell, Swimming; Olympian, 1984, 1988; Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, California Institute of Technology *Keith Brantly*, Track and Field, Olympian, 1996 Marathon, Eight-Time USATF National Road Racing Champion; Coach

Cynthia Potter, Diving; Three Olympic Teams; Bronze Medal, 1976; USA Diving Foundation Trustee; Coach, the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA

Linda Muri, Rowing, World Champion 1994, 1995, 1999; U.S. Rowing National Team Coach

Keith K. Dickson, Swimming; U.S. National Team Member; Triathlon, USA Triathlon Coach of the Year

Bridie Farrell, Speed Skating National Team Member, Survivor of child sexual abuse by Olympian Andy Gabel

Sarah Powers Barnhard, Volleyball, Hall Fame Player; Coach, Powers Volleyball Club; Survivor Coach Sexual Abuse

Jessica Howard, Rhythmic Gymnastics; Three-Year National Champion, Survivor of Sexual Abuse by Dr. Larry Nassar

Eva Rodansky, Speedskating; World Cup 2001 – 2005; U.S. National Team 2003- 2004; Research Laboratory Specialist; University of Michigan, Department of Internal Medicine; National Team Coach Engaged in a Sexual Relationship with Her Rival, Keeping Her From The Olympic Team

Debra Grodensky, Swimmer; Survivor of Sexual Abuse by Coach Andy King **Walter Palmer**, Basketball; Player

Association Consultant

Jennifer Spiegel, Esq.; Gymnastics, All-Ivy Champion

Bruce Hayes, Swimming, 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist

Angela Hucles, Soccer, 2004 & 2008
Olympian, Past President Women's Sports
Foundation; Founder and Chief Empowerment
Officer of Empowerment Through Sport
Hudson Taylor, 3-time NCAA All-American
Wrestler; Executive Director, Athlete Ally
Kathy Johnson Clarke, Gymnastics; 1984
Olympic Team Captain; Silver and Bronze
Medalist, Sports Commentator
Dominique Moceanu, Gymnastics; 1996
Olympic Gold Medalist, Author, "Off
Balance"

Joe Ehrmann, Football, Nine-year NFL Veteran, Minister, Founder, The InSideOut Initiative.

Wendy Hilliard, Rhythmic Gymnastics; USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame

Carol Mann, Golf; LPGA Hall of Fame, Former President of the LPGA and the Women's Sports Foundation; Survivor of Coaching Sexual Abuse

Paul Wylie, Figure Skating, Olympic Silver Medalist

Anne Flannery, Basketball; Former President & CEO, PE4Life

Jennifer Sey, Gymnastics, 1986 National Champion, Author, "Chalked Up", Chief Marketing Officer, LEVI Strauss & Co. Laila Ali, Undefeated Four-Time World Champion Boxer; Television Host; Author Diana Nyad, Swimmer, First Person to Swim from Cuba to Key West, Survivor of Coaching Sexual Abuse.

Christine Tuzi, Volleyball, University of Southern California; Survivor of Coach Rick Butler Sexual Abuse

Jessica L. Armstrong, Esq.; Gymnastics, U.S. National Team Member

Megan Neyer, Ph.D., LPC Diving; 1980 Olympic Team, World Champion Springboard Champion; fifteen-time U.S. National Champion, Neyer Performance Strategies, LLC; sports and organizational performance coaching and consulting

Julie Romias, Volleyball; USA National Team; UCLA Varsity Team; Survivor of Sexual Abuse by Coach Rick Butler Amy Duval, Gymnastics; Varsity Louisiana State University, Athlete Sexual Abuse Survivor

Julie Culley, Track and Field; 2012 Olympic Team, Finalist in the 5000m

Lisa Forrest, Swimming; 1980 Olympian, Women's Team Captain; Owner, Evermind Lanier Drew, Esq., Running; Olympic Trials Marathon Qualifier; Associate General Counsel; Baptist Hospital

Joan Pennington, Swimming; World Champion, 1980 Olympic Team, U.S. National Team Member 1978-1983, National Collegiate Champion Allison Grant Townsend, Swimming; U.S. National Team Member, Division I Collegiate Athlete

Bonnie Glasgow, Swimming, National Champion, Athlete Representative on USA Swimming Board of Directors, 1982-1984, Coach

Jennifer Hooker, Swimming, 1976 Olympic Team, Collegiate Athletic Administration Patricia A. Rodowsky, US Speedskating Official and Parent of U.S. National Team Member

Shelley Carlisle, Swimming, DI Collegiate Karen Moe Humphreys, Swimming; Olympic Champion, International Swimming Hall of Fame Swimmer, American Swim Coaches Association Hall of Fame Coach Dagny Knutson, Swimming; World Champion, American Record Holder; Coach,

Laura Robinson, Cycling; Canadian National Cycling Team, Former Rowing Champion, First journalist in Canada to write about sexual abuse in sport in 1992

Grand Canyon University

Michael H. DiSabato, Wrestling; Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor; Founder & Chief Creative Officer, The College Football Players Club

Stephanie Vieira, Swimming, Survivor of Childhood and Coaching Sexual Abuse Joanna Rees, Gymnastics, Division I, Duke University, Managing Partner at West Shaun Dougherty, Survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Chris Mosier, Triathlon; Founder, Transathlete.com; Team USA Triathlete/ Duathlete

Dawn Riley, Sailing; Competed in Four America's Cups

Kim Pawelek, Track and Field, 4-Time Olympic Trials Marathon Qualifier, USATF Marathon National Champion, 2-Time NCAA National Champion

Elite Coaches:

Sue Enquist, Softball; Head Coach UCLA for 27 years; 65 All-Americans and 15 Olympians Founder, CEO ONESoftball.com

Randy Reese, Swimming; Hall of Fame Coach, 1980, 1984, 1988 Olympic Coach; Four-Time NCAA Team Champion Dia C. Rianda, Swimming, Coach, Faced Retaliation was Terminated from Employment for Reporting Sexual Abuse Holly Hatton, Rowing, Olympic Team Member 1980; Olympic Team Coach 1988, 1992; Program Director, Bare Hill Rowing Association

Charles Howe, Cycling, Coach and former USA Cycling Official

Rebecca Carlson, Rugby, DI Head Coach, Quinnipiac University, Three-time National Champion

Gary Martin, Speedskating; Level 2 Coach and Competitor

Michelle Mitchell, Diving; Olympic Silver Medalist, Diving Coach

Olivia Gill, Gymnastics, Coach *Pamela Boteler*, Canoe/Kayak; President, WomenCAN International

Carl Cepuran, Speedskating; Two-time USOC Volunteer Coach of the Year; Program Director, Academy for Skating Excellence at USOC Olympic Training Facility

Edith Rowland, Swimming; Coach Kincaid Schmidt, Soccer, Director of Coaching, Colorado Youth Soccer Club Deb Armstrong; Alpine Ski Racing, Coach Melissa Price, Soccer; Head Coach, Wellesley College

Kiha Sutta, Soccer, Assistant Coach, U.S. Airforce Academy

Stephanie Wheeler, Wheelchair Basketball, Head Coach, Illinois University

Sport Leadership:

Richard Lapchick, Ph.D., Chair, DeVos Sport Business Management Program; Director, Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport Andrew Zimbalist, Ph.D., Chair, Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics Megan Kahn, Executive Director, Alliance of Women Coaches

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Jay Allred, Golf, Publisher of Triad Golf Today and Triangle Golf Today Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer, AAUW Brenda Reimer, Professor, Sport

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Ann Walker, Director of Events, Alliance of Women Coaches

Laura Myers, Director of Business, Alliance of Women Coaches

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Inclusion, Women Leaders in College Sports Hannah Krieger, Director of Strategic

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Becky Clark, PhD, LCSW-R, CC-AASP, CGRS Licensed Social

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Frank P. Cervone, Executive Director, Support Center for Child Advocates Brenda Tracy, Survivor of Sexual Abuse Advocate

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Berit Amalie Esq., Swimming; Senior Vice President, Community Relations, General Counsel, Special Olympics of Florida

Kyle Kusz, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies of Sport and Physical Culture, University of Rhode Island Liz Hanson, Client Director, Athlete Assessments

Kimberly Hadley, Soccer; Vice President of Diversity, International Gay and Lesbian Football Association; Referee Director, North America IGLFA

Caroline Silby, Ph.D., Sport Psychology Consultant to Olympians and Elite Athletes; Author on Women in Sport Topics

Rene Henry, Assistant to the President of the USOC 1985-1989; Member of USOC Committees 1985-1989: Long Range Strategic

Planning Task Force, International Relations, and Media-Public Relations

Terri Lakowski, Esq., Basketball; CEO, Active Policy Solutions

Eugene Hung, Writer and Activist; FeministAsianDad.com

Nancy Gruver, Founder, New Moon Girls Joe Kelly, Founder, Dads & Daughters Jessica O'Beirne, Producer, GymCastic: The Gymnastics Podcast

Molly Grisham, Owner, Influence LLC Jim Osterman, Runner, Author Sheilla Dingus, Editor and Writer, Advocacy for Fairness in Sports

Barbara Dorris, Executive Director, SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests)

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Lauren Anderson, PhD, Assistant Professor of Sports Communication at Lasell College, Professional Sports Committee Member NASWIS

Kristen Elechko, Triathlon, Soccer, Lacrosse, Basketball, Swimming, Softball/Baseball, Gymnastics, Skiing

David Cohen, CEO, Doc Wayne Youth Services

Steven Ungerleider, Ph.D., Global Sports Development, International Paralympic Committee Cheryl Cooky, Ph.D., Associate Professor of American Studies, Purdue University Rick Karcher, Esq., Sport Management Professor, Eastern Michigan University Matt Moore, Ph.D., MSW, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Ball State University Pat Griffin, Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts Amherst Erin Buzuvis, Esq., Professor, Western New England University School of Law Director, Center for Gender & Sexuality Studies; Founder and Author at the Title IX

Sue Sugarman, LCSW, BCD; Therapist, Consultant, Performance Coach Betsy Andreu, Cycling Spouse, Vindicated Witness Against Lance Armstrong