

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator for Connecticut
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senator for Kansas
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

October 13, 2021

Dear Senator Blumenthal and Senator Moran:

Today, we write to respectfully request that Congress act on November 1, 2021 to adopt a joint resolution dissolving the USOPC Board of Directors (the “Board”) pursuant to “The Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athlete Act of 2020.” We make this request after years of patience, deliberation, and unrequited commitment to learn from our suffering and make amateur sports safe for future generations. We believe the Board’s past actions demonstrate an unwillingness to confront the endemic problems with abuse that athletes like us have faced and a continued refusal to pursue true and necessary reform of the broken Olympic system.

The Department of Justice Office of Inspector General’s recent report found that the FBI failed to conduct a criminal investigation for more than a year after we were known to be victims of Larry Nassar (“Nassar”) and that USA Gymnastics and USPOC officials knew Nassar had been accused of molesting gymnasts, concealed their knowledge, and did nothing to protect minors whom Nassar would continue to treat in Michigan.

Since becoming aware of Nassar’s abuse, the USOPC’s top priority has been to hide culpability and avoid accountability. Despite myriad allegations of widespread abuse within the Olympic system and organizational mishandling of such complaints, the USOPC took no investigative action whatsoever after learning that Nassar was an abuser—and even knowingly allowed Nassar to quietly resign, without scrutiny, while it continued to endorse him on its list of approved medical providers. Shockingly, the USOPC did not even discuss the need for an investigation in a Board meeting until February of 2018 despite knowing of Nassar’s abuse since 2015—well over a year after Nassar was publicly exposed as a sexual predator.

Even the USOPC-commissioned Ropes & Gray Report, which promoted the notion that culpability did not extend beyond that which had already become known, stated that it was an “ecosystem” that facilitated Nassar’s criminal acts. We all know that ecosystem: an ecosystem that puts money and medals before athlete safety and relies on propaganda to protect the commercial value of its brand, because we were forced to function within it throughout our

athletic careers. That ecosystem still exists today. High-ranking USOPC Officials who presided over the USOPC while Nassar was abusing gymnasts remain in positions of influence and power at the USOPC and the USOPC's Foundation. Instead of firing former USOPC CEO, Scott Blackmun, the Board allowed him to resign, providing him with a glowing testimonial and a 2.4-million-dollar payment—even after the Senate and the USOPC's own lawyers suggested Blackmun perjured himself in testimony to the US Senate.

America's athletes proudly compete around the world with USA emblazoned on their uniforms; at a minimum, they deserve to know that the USOPC, under whose "Team USA" banner they must compete, will take reasonable efforts to support them and keep them safe. Let's be clear: USOPC leadership has failed miserably in the most basic of expectations, and America's athletes deserve much, much better.

Respectfully, we believe it is time for Congress to exercise its authority over the organization it created by replacing the current USOPC Board with leadership willing and able to do what should have been done long ago: Responsibly investigate the systemic problem of sexual abuse within Olympic organizations—including the USOPC—and all efforts to conceal it. Unless and until this happens, nothing will change, excuses will continue, and athletes will remain at-risk.

Thank you for considering this request.

Simone Biles


Simone Biles (Oct 13, 2021 13:25 CDT)

Maggie Nichols



McKayla Maroney


McKayla Maroney (Oct 13, 2021 10:05 PDT)

Aly Raisman

