

May 31, 2018

Senator Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Chairman, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and Esteemed Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written statement on the processes used by the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”), National Governing Bodies, and other key stakeholders to protect Olympic Athletes from abuse. This matter is one of grave importance and one that is vital to the safety of our athletes.

First, I want to express in the strongest terms possible that I condemn Larry Nassar’s criminal actions, and I hope that, through efforts from your committee and otherwise, the entire gymnastics community will enact reforms to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all gymnasts.

I was the National Team Coordinator for USA Gymnastics from 2001 to 2016, after which I retired. I am deeply saddened that some of Larry Nassar’s sexual assault victims were national team members whom I loved and worked with for years to represent the U.S. on the international scene.

As the National Team Coordinator, my primary duties were confined to the gymnasium. I did not have any policy-making authority for USA Gymnastics or USOC. Nor was I ever consulted on sexual abuse prevention policies or hiring decisions. USA Gymnastics hired Larry Nassar to provide medical services to the U.S. Women’s National Gymnastics Team.

As outlined in my consulting agreement, attached as Exhibit A, my job was to develop a strategic plan to prepare the U.S. Women’s National Gymnastics Team to be competitive at international competitions. To accomplish this, I coordinated the training of the athletes at our national training camps to bring a centralized purpose to our athletes training in different gyms with different personal coaches across the country. I also set priorities for a common training plan to prepare the athletes to perform to their best ability. Although a portion of my ranch was used

for national team training camps, this portion was exclusively leased by USA Gymnastics. USA Gymnastics set all policies for the camp that were outside of the gym and was responsible for running the camp.

Although my role as National Team Coordinator did not involve setting policy for USA Gymnastics and I do not have firsthand knowledge of any policy changes that have been made since 2016, I do have two recommendations that would potentially protect our athletes from abuse.

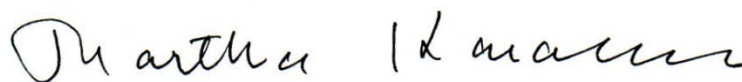
My first recommendation is for mandatory education and training on sexual assault prevention for all stakeholders involved in USA Gymnastics. One issue that has come up repeatedly in the media is that many parents, and even the athletes themselves, did not know that Larry Nassar was sexually assaulting the gymnasts when it was occurring. Personal coaches did not know, and I also did not know that Larry Nassar was abusing gymnasts. This is due, in part, to the lack of education on sexual assault in the greater gymnastics community. The community is currently ill-equipped to identify victims or perpetrators of sexual assault. Through education and training, our community should be given the tools to identify and prevent sexual assault so that no child is ever subjected to the abuse Larry Nassar inflicted.

USA Gymnastics and USOC should implement mandatory annual trainings for all stakeholders for the elite teams, including personal coaches, parents, athletes, medical staff, administrative staff, officials, and the National Team Coordinator. Any person who will encounter our athletes at competitions or otherwise should be required to submit to this training and to sign a certification acknowledging his understanding and agreement with the sexual assault prevention rules. This training will enable key stakeholders, including the National Team Coordinator, to identify and stop grooming and other inappropriate behavior. The trainings will also empower the athletes to understand when they encounter inappropriate conduct. Predators should not be permitted to prey on the innocence of children.

My second recommendation is the implementation of USA Gymnastics-assigned chaperones. Each gymnast should have a chaperone present with them at the national training camps and competitions. While each gymnast was required to travel with their personal coach to the national training camps, a neutral chaperone, responsible solely for the safety and wellbeing of each gymnast, would help create a safe space for gymnasts to voice concerns outside of their athletic training. This chaperone should also be required to accompany each gymnast on any medical treatments or sessions, whether formal or informal. A gymnast should never be alone with another adult who is not her parent without her chaperone present at a national training camp or a USA Gymnastics or USOC-sanctioned competition.

I am encouraged that Congress and the gymnastics community are taking steps to prevent abuse in the future. Thank you for allowing me to submit this written statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Karolyi".

Martha Karolyi

EXHIBIT A

USA GYMNASTICS

CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth below, the United States Gymnastics Federation d/b/a ("USA Gymnastics") and Martha (Karolyi) agree as follows:



National Governing Body for
Gymnastics in the United States
Group A Member

Employment and Term: USA Gymnastics hereby agrees to hire Karolyi to serve as its National Team Coordinator to the Women's National Team Program for the period beginning January 1, 2001. Subject to the provisions of section 10 of this Agreement, the term of this Agreement is until December 31, 2001.

Performance: At all times while employed by USA Gymnastics, Karolyi will give her best efforts to faithfully carry out the duties identified in this Agreement. During the period of her employment Karolyi shall not provide her services as a coach to any other gymnast or gymnastics team without the prior consent of USA Gymnastics Senior Director of Women's Program. Karolyi understand that such consent will not be given if it would result in Karolyi serving as a personal coach for any gymnast.

3. **Duties:** Karolyi shall:
- a) Develop the strategic plan and standardize the training program for all national team members.
 - b) Attend all national and international competition as needed and conduct training camps to determine athlete readiness to compete and compliance with the established training program.
 - c) Assign national team members and judges to international competitions in conjunction with the Athlete Selection Committee
 - d) Make recommendations on the Selection Procedures for the 2001 World Championships and be part of the selection process.
 - e) Coordinate the assignments of national coaching staff for athlete visitations to benefit the key gymnasts.
 - f) Design and manage the World Championships training plan.
 - g) Make visits to clubs of the national team members, counsel the personal coaches, help motivate the gymnasts and personally check on the training and readiness of the athletes as needed.
 - h) Be present at all competitions, with full access to the competitive floor, to encourage and support all the athletes.
 - i) Support the policies and programs of USA Gymnastics,
 - j) Undertake other duties and responsibilities as reasonably assigned by USA Gymnastics,
4. **Supervision:** Karolyi will report directly to USA Gymnastics Senior Director Women's Program and will consult directly with the International Elite Committee in the performance of the duties identified in Section 3 of this Agreement.
5. **Relationship and Authority:** Karolyi's relationship with USA Gymnastics is that of an independent consultant. Karolyi is not authorized to enter any agreement on behalf of USA Gymnastics, nor shall she represent that she has such authority.
6. **Compensation:** In consideration of the satisfactory execution of his duties, USAG shall pay Karolyi an annual fee of \$50,000.00. Each month's payment shall be due and payable by the 15th day of the month in which it is earned. USAG will not withhold any Federal and State taxes, social security payments, or disability insurance from this fee. Payment of these obligations is the sole responsibility of Karolyi. USAG will not provide Karolyi with any benefits such as group health, hospital or dental insurance.

- 7. Expenses Reimbursement: Expenses reasonably incurred by Karolyi in the execution of her duties shall be reimbursed so long as those expenses are consistent with the approved budget and USA Gymnastics' policies for employee expense reimbursement.
- 8. Conflicts: Karolyi understands that she may not appear on behalf of or affiliate herself with any company engaged in the same business as a sponsor or supplier of USA Gymnastics or its national team or events, take a position adverse to USA Gymnastics or its policies, or serve as a gymnastics expert adverse to USA Gymnastics in any legal dispute.
- 9. Work Product: USA Gymnastics shall own, and has the right to publish or reuse, any oral, written or visual materials created by Karolyi as part of her performance under this Agreement.
- 10. Termination:
 - a) USA Gymnastics may, upon thirty (30) days written notice, terminate this Agreement without further obligation to Karolyi.
 - b) Karolyi may terminate her employment upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Senior Director Women's Program, such notice to be served at the principal offices of USA Gymnastics.
- 11. Assignment: Neither party may assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement without prior written consent of the other.
- 12. Governing Law: This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana.
- 13. Complete Agreement: This Agreement contains all the understandings and agreements, oral or written, between the parties relating to Karolyi's employment and may only be amended by a written supplement duly executed by USA Gymnastics and Karolyi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, USA Gymnastics and Martha Karolyi have executed this contract.

Martha Karolyi

Martha Karolyi

02.28.01

Date

For USA Gymnastics:

Robert Colarossi

Robert Colarossi
President

03.05.2001

Date