

sexual abuse. Too often institutions, whether they are our colleges, our military, or, here, in this case, an athletic organization, prioritize preserving their reputations and their brands over the people they protect.

This legislation will require national sports bodies like USA Gymnastics to file reports of abuse as soon as possible. It will establish mandatory training and require the enforcement of policies preventing, reporting, and addressing these kinds of allegations because protecting our athletes must be a priority. Let their dreams come true.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to express my admiration and deep appreciation for the gentlewoman from Indiana for her leadership on this most important bill.

This gives us a chance to do something, which is to give a voice to those victims who have suffered in silence and yet had the courage to come forward and allow others to appreciate the depth of the impact that they have suffered, as well as an opportunity for us to assure that this kind of pattern doesn't repeat itself again.

We know it is a pattern because we have, as has been aptly demonstrated by the speakers before me, stories of young women who have been victimized because they enter a trusting relationship—one between a coach and a person in which that power dynamic is so unique, the young person putting their future in the hands—which is exploited by that person superior in the relationship.

So we now have chance to assure that that trust is not further impacted. But it is not just that relationship; it is the long-term implications of it which are so damaging.

Working with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, we have come to appreciate victims and how the psychological impacts, including things like substance abuse and other kinds of psychological disorders, last for years, and by the courage of coming forward, it does not necessarily end that impact on them.

In fact, it is not just situations like coach and athlete. All kinds of trusting relationships can create a dynamic—one including something that I am currently working on, massage parlors—in which individuals who put themselves in a compromising position find themselves assaulted.

Most recently, I introduced the Duty to Report Act, addressing that kind of a violation of that trusting relationship.

These are examples of opportunities for us to address, once and for all, the implications of people who are allowed to move from one situation to another when reports come forward and stop. We call that pass the trash.

Today, it is time for our body to put forward the kind of legislation that

will assure that there is a duty to report so, along with due process, there can be an internal investigation to assure and reporting requirements so that these individuals are not able to victimize future young athletes, future people who put themselves in the position of trust.

Mr. Chair, I applaud my colleagues who support this legislation, and I ask that we do so with a strong voice from this House.

The CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PAULSEN) assumed the chair.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1238. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE ACT OF 2017

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIR. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1973, which aims to strengthen protections against child victims of sexual abuse.

I am a parent. In fact, today, with me, I have my son, Hudson, and one of my daughters, Ava.

Sadly, over the course of the past couple of years, countless stories of young athletes being abused, including in Indiana, have revealed glaring inadequacies in our law. These stories, many about coaches and doctors and trainers and other adults who have abused their positions of authority and trust to exploit young athletes, are appalling and, as a parent, gut wrenching. Every one of these kids deserved better.

This bill aims to ensure that acts of suspected child abuse are promptly reported to an organization's national governing body to make sure that these cases are immediately disclosed to local or Federal law enforcement authorities. Short of this requirement being codified into law, predatory individuals can continue perpetrating horrific crimes against young athletes with relative impunity.

In addition, this bill requires national governing bodies to develop spe-

cific policies and procedures for reporting sexual abuse cases to law enforcement and to keep track of individuals who leave one facility due to complaints and then go to another facility to repeat that abuse elsewhere.

I want to thank my colleague from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for her important work on this legislation—she is my kids' second favorite Member of Congress—and for her hard work on this important bill to protect kids all across America from abuse.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member on the prime subcommittee on the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding.

I thank the chairman of this committee and the manager of this bill, and, particularly, I want to express my appreciation to the bipartisan co-sponsors of this legislation—the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL)—for coming together around a concept of continuing to work to protect our children; and where we can find bipartisanship, that is really very special as relates to the message to the American people.

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act requires that personnel and employees of national governing bodies recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee report suspected incidents of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to law enforcement. The importance of this is to cease, end, stop, never have it again for those victims—never report or hold it for years and years—who are impacted psychologically and impacted for the rest of their life. Really, that is what has been happening in years past.

This bill is intended to protect young athletes who, with great expectation and excitement and challenge and wonderment and aspirations for the Olympics, in their early years, desire to serve their Nation; because when they put their bodies through this rigorous engagement in sport day after day, week after week, month after month, hour after hour, minute after minute, second after second, and deny themselves other extracurricular activities, they do it for the passion of the sport, for their recognition of excellence, but also to go to the Olympics and make their Nation proud.

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And so what we have put them through with respect to not protecting them against sexual assaults severely undermines, again, and irreparably harms them. With H.R. 1973, we have an opportunity to ensure that that never happens again.

The need for this legislation is best illustrated by the ongoing scandal of

widespread abuse and exploitation of young gymnasts over the course of 20 years within USA Gymnastics—a prominent governing body of the U.S. Olympic Committee—in particular, by a physician starting back in 1997 who engaged in such activities.

Allegations against him were not reported to law enforcement until recently; and following the first public complaint against him in 2015, more than 100 women filed complaints accusing him of sexual abuse, and he now faces more than 20 criminal charges in Federal and State courts.

Again, this legislation is to turn the light on those who have quietly abused these young men and women and, as well, done it with impunity because no vehicle was provided for these young people to be able to ensure that they would not be assaulted again.

The integrity that we bring to this process with this legislation, the comfort that we give to families and parents when they entrust their children to those who are coaches, doctors, leaders of teams, sponsors of teams is vitally important. And the protections of this bill, of reporting and ensuring that the light continues to stay on and the darkness never comes for that young athlete who seeks that golden platform or that first place or second place or third place, or even to participate, that they can do it with the affirmation that the Nation believes in their protection and their security and that they should never, never, never face this alone.

I rise to support the legislation, H.R. 1973, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to first express my thanks and appreciation as well to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), who is bringing this legislation forward, H.R. 1973, of which I am a proud cosponsor. The bill is the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act.

Every year, Mr. Chair, thousands of amateur athletes begin their journey with the goal of one day being able to represent the United States at the Olympics. This journey is often filled with years of dedication, of sacrifice, of multiple setbacks, all in the hopes of rising to the top of their craft.

Unfortunately, for some, this journey has also been scarred by sexual abuse, and often this abuse comes from those who are closest to our young athletes. These are the individuals that have been entrusted by families all around the country to look after them, to take care of them, to look after these loved ones during their training.

The bill today in the House that we are taking up is a step in the right direction to help ensure that athletes are better protected. It requires mandatory and immediate reporting of incidents

of child sexual abuse to both local and Federal law enforcement. No organization should be able to stand idly by when a child is placed in harm's way and becomes a victim.

The bill also directs our amateur athletic governing bodies to develop and implement rigorous training and oversight practices to prevent abuse of athletes in the future. Mr. Chair, our amateur athletes and their families should never ever have to worry about their children being abused by those who are closest to them, often in a very trusted relationship.

We need to pass this critical legislation to give families the peace of mind and prevent abuse. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, let me close by saying that protecting young victims from sexual abuse is a necessary measure that will help ensure that young athletes in this country are able to pursue their athletic dreams in a safe environment and free of exploitation and abuse.

This bill imposes an affirmative duty on coaches, trainers, instructors, doctors, and the like to protect the young athletes who have been entrusted to their tutelage. This bill establishes remedies for those who might be harmed, and this bill mandates training and oversight to encourage compliance, vigilance, and protection.

I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for facilitating the prompt consideration of this bill, and the Judiciary Committee. I also want to recognize the leadership of Senator FEINSTEIN, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who authored the Senate version of this bill and who has been the leading voice in Congress in demanding we address these issues.

Finally, I note that this important bipartisan legislation is supported by many advocacy groups including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; the National Children's Alliance; the National Center for Victims of Crime; Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network; and the United States Olympic Committee, as well as several of its national governing bodies.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1973, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and all of those who have spoken in support of this bill this morning, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act.

It is exactly as it has been described. It is an important moment for us, in a bipartisan consensus that we have reached, to protect our young athletes. It has been articulated well, the purpose behind the bill, and it is a proud moment for all of us as we stand for these young athletes to defend them as they perform and use their God-given talents that make our Nation so proud.

So, without belaboring the point, Mr. Chairman, I just want to commend, again, Mrs. BROOKS for introducing this important legislation, and I also urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1973—Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse Act.

Since my time as a US Attorney and federal prosecutor, I have been committed to battling child exploitation and abuse.

Last year, I was shocked—along with much of the country—when the Indianapolis Star published an investigative piece that exposed troubling allegations of sexual abuse at USA Gymnastics programs across the country.

According to their report, over the last 20 years, at least 368 young people—some Olympic hopefuls—were the victims of sexual abuse at the hands of adults they trusted—coaches, trainers, doctors and other adults associated with USA Gymnastics. They reported the abuse to USA Gymnastics—and unfortunately, USA Gymnastics failed, in many cases, to report their abuse to law enforcement authorities.

The article shed light on their stories and inspired the legislation that is before us today. According to the more than 5,600 pages of USA Gymnastics records released by the Indy Star, some of the 54 coaches who had been accused of sexual abuse by young athletes in their care weren't banned from gymnastics until years after their history of abuse had been reported to and kept in complaint files by USA Gymnastics.

One USA Gymnastics doctor, Dr. Nassar—abused young women and girls for more than 20 years, and more than 100 women have come forward today to share their stories of abuse at his hands.

I understand how challenging it is to share painful stories of sexual abuse, and I am proud of the brave gymnasts who have shared their stories. Stories that should never have happened, and stories that went inexcusably unanswered.

Their stories demand our attention and action.

Not only to provide victims with the justice denied to them for so long, but also to protect future generations of Olympic hopefuls.

I want to acknowledge the work of Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California who is leading this bill in the Senate, and my colleagues in the Bipartisan Women's Caucus who joined me to offer the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act. Our legislation is an important step towards protecting our young athletes.

Our legislation addresses this dangerous silence that, as the Indy Star investigative piece showed, plagued the USA Gymnastics. A silence that led to more girls being abused, hurt, and harmful coaches who faced little to no repercussions for their heinous actions.

The abuse should have been first and foremost, prevented. The system utterly failed when the abuse was not detected, and not promptly reported. The Olympic community failed and must do better.

Our bill makes sure that national governing bodies entrusted with the health and well-being of young athletes and future Olympians promptly report any allegations of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities and implement stronger policies and procedures to prevent this from happening again.

I applaud SENATOR FEINSTEIN and my colleagues in the House who joined the effort to move this important legislation forward, and applaud the victims who shared their story to protect others.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired. Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-20. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1973

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017".

#### SEC. 2. REQUIRED REPORTING OF CHILD AND SEXUAL ABUSE AT FACILITIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

(a) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13031) 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 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 facility' means a facility over which a national governing body has jurisdiction;

"(10) the term 'covered individual' means an adult who is authorized by a covered facility or by a national governing body to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at the covered facility or at any event sanctioned by the covered facility; and

"(11) the term 'national governing body' has the meaning given the term in section 220501(b) of title 36, United States Code.";

(4) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting "and for all covered facilities" 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 facilities," 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 after "facility," the following: "or a covered individual (as described in subsection (a)(2) of such section 226) who".

#### SEC. 3. 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: "file—

"(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 a legal disability ends.";

(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.".

#### SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO PREVENT THE ABUSE OF MINOR AND AMATEUR ATHLETES.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITIES.—Section 220523(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) develop training, oversight practices, policies, and procedures to prevent the abuse, including physical abuse and sexual abuse, of any minor or amateur athlete by any adult.".

(b) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—Section 220524 of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "For the sport";

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(10) develop and enforce policies, mechanisms, and procedures to prevent the abuse, including physical abuse and sexual abuse, of any minor or amateur athlete, including—

"(A) requiring all adults authorized by a national governing body or a member of a national governing body to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an amateur sports organization facility or at any event sanctioned by a national governing body or a member of a national governing body, to report facts that give reason to

suspect child abuse, including sexual abuse, as required by relevant Federal or State law, to law enforcement authorities and other appropriate authorities, including an entity designated by the corporation to investigate and resolve such allegations;

"(B) establishing a mechanism, approved by a trained expert on child abuse, that allows an individual to easily report an incident of child abuse as described in subparagraph (A) to the national governing body or another authority, including an entity designated by the corporation;

"(C) procedures to ensure that covered individuals are instructed to avoid one-on-one situations with any amateur athlete who is a minor (other than such an athlete for whom the covered individual is a legal guardian) at an amateur sports organization facility, at any event sanctioned by a national governing body, or any event sanctioned by a member of a national governing body, without being observable or interruptible by another adult; and

"(D) oversight procedures, including regular and random audits, not to exceed once a year, conducted by subject matter experts unaffiliated with the national governing body, of all members and adults described in subparagraph (A) to ensure that policies and procedures developed under this paragraph are followed correctly and that consistent training is offered and given to all members regarding prevention of sexual abuse; and

"(11) in the case of a national governing body with jurisdiction over more than one amateur sports organization facility or event, establish a mechanism by which—

"(A) the national governing body can—

"(i) receive a report of suspected sexual misconduct by an adult authorized by a national governing body or a member of a national governing body to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an amateur sports organization facility or at any event sanctioned by a national governing body or a member of a national governing body; and

"(ii) confidentially share a report received under clause (i) with each of the other amateur sports organizations, facilities, or members under the jurisdiction of the national governing body; and

"(B) an amateur sports organization, facility, or member under the jurisdiction of the national governing body can—

"(i) review the reports received by the national governing body under subparagraph (A)(i) to assess any allegations of sexual misconduct made in such reports; and

"(ii) withhold providing to an adult who is the subject of an allegation of sexual misconduct in a report reviewed under clause (i) authority to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at such organization, facility, or event until the resolution of such allegation.

"(b) LIMITED LIABILITY FOR THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES, AND AN ENTITY DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE AND RESOLVE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2), no civil or criminal action may be brought in any Federal or State court against the United States Olympic Committee, a national governing body, or an amateur sports organization, facility, or event under the jurisdiction of a national governing body, or an entity designated by the United States Olympic Committee to investigate and resolve sexual misconduct allegations described in subsection (a)(11), including any director, officer, employee, or agent of such entity, if the action arises from the execution of the responsibilities or functions described in subsection (a)(11).

"(2) INTENTIONAL, RECKLESS, OR OTHER MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a



civil or criminal action if the United States Olympic Committee, a national governing body, an amateur sports organization, facility, or event under the jurisdiction of a national governing body, or an entity designated by the United States Olympic Committee to investigate and resolve sexual misconduct allegations described in subsection (a)(11), or a director, officer, employee, or agent of such entity acted or failed to act—

“(A) with reckless disregard for a risk of causing injury; or

“(B) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function described in subsection (a)(11).

“(3) LIMITED EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall apply to any act or omission arising out of any responsibility or function not described in subsection (a)(11).”

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 220522 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to limit the ability of a national governing body to develop a policy or procedure to prevent an individual who is the subject of an allegation of sexual misconduct from interacting with a minor or amateur athlete until such time as the national governing body, or an entity with applicable jurisdiction resolves such allegation.”

(d) REVIEW OF RECOGNITION OF AMATEUR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AS NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES.—Section 220521(d) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “may” each place it appears and inserting “shall”.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 115–152. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF LOUISIANA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 115–152.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Chairman GOODLATTE, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, strike line 16, and all that follows through line 3 on page 3, and insert the following:

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

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

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

Page 4, line 19, strike “file” and insert “filed”.

Page 7, strike line 16 and all that follows through line 25, and insert the following:

“(C) reasonable procedures designed to avoid one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at an amateur sports organization facility, at any event sanctioned by a national governing body, or any event sanctioned by a member of a national governing body, without being observable or interruptible by another adult, except where the safety and welfare of the minor requires; and”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 352, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am happy to introduce this manager’s amendment to H.R. 1973, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act. This amendment is very simple. It defines who is covered by the mandatory reporting requirement in the underlying bill. The definition harmonizes language with the underlying statute, defining this class not by location, but by simply keeping the jurisdictional reference where it belongs: in the national governing body or a member of a national governing body.

The amendment also defines the term “event” to include travel, practice, competition, and health or medical treatment. This definition is important as events in USA Gymnastics revealed abuse by USA Gymnastics’ team doctor Larry Nassar, who molested dozens of young girls under the guise of medical treatment. Moreover, other allegations of abuse show that it sometimes took place during travel to various competitions.

The amendment also clarifies duties of national governing bodies. Under the amendment, national governing bodies must implement reasonable procedures designed to avoid one-on-one interactions between minors and adults that are not within an observable or interruptible distance.

This amendment assures that the 47 different national governing bodies can implement procedures that make sense, given the sport they cover, the reach of their influence, and the resources available to them.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the bill or the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman and point out that this amendment addresses the provisions in the bill concerning one-on-one interactions between young athletes and the adults who work with them.

The existing version of the bill requires the national governing bodies instruct coaches, instructors, doctors, and the like to avoid one-on-one situations with the young athletes that cannot be observed or interrupted by another adult. Under the proposed change, national governing bodies will be required to institute and enforce reasonable procedures designed to avoid one-on-one interactions between young athletes and their coaches, instructors, and doctors that cannot be observed or interrupted by another adult.

Mr. GOODLATTE’s amendment also harmonizes language used in the bill with language in the underlying statute and makes technical and conforming changes.

I support this amendment and the changes it makes to enhance H.R. 1973, and I look forward to further discussions of these provisions with the Senate, with the goal of producing a consensus bill for enactment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to join the gentleman from Louisiana and the ranking member from Michigan in support of this amendment. I think it has an underlying premise that we should all celebrate and attempt to ensure that it is in place.

I, too, agree that I look forward to reconciling the House and Senate bill, but the amendment specifically addresses the provisions in the bill concerning one-on-one interactions between young athletes and the adults who they work with; and I believe the clear understanding that we all hope can be implemented is that we don’t have one-on-one interactions without overall supervision or other kids or other adult participants so that we do not create an atmosphere where a child can be intimidated or abused.

Under the proposed change, national governing bodies will be required to institute and enforce reasonable procedures designed to avoid one-on-one interactions between young athletes and their coaches, instructors, and doctors that cannot be observed or interrupted by another adult.

First of all, we know that the expanse of sports is expanding. There are so many new sports, so many new opportunities for adults, many committed and dedicated adults, but the real issue is: Let’s protect the children.

Mr. Chair, I rise to support the Goodlatte amendment.

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Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, in closing, I echo what has been

said already, and I appreciate the comments of my colleagues and acknowledge, again, that the manager's amendment is very simple. It simply seeks to clear up language and define these terms. It is a necessary alteration to the bill, and I encourage our colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. COSTA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 115-152.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 21, strike "reasonably".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 352, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chair, as a co-chair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, along with Congressman TED POE, we have over 70 members, bipartisan, to focus on protecting victims of crime. We also try to ensure that we protect the VOCA funding that goes for very worthwhile efforts for organizations throughout the country and to recognize and honor every year those who stand out on behalf of victims of crime.

I want to commend the chairman and the ranking member for advancing this legislation, as well as my Senate colleagues, because there is a companion piece of legislation that is attempting to address this horrible issue in which you have so often young athletes—Olympic-caliber athletes—some who actually have participated in the Olympics, who, at a very young age, find themselves victims of these horrific crimes, through no fault of their own.

Sexual assault, in any form, is a horrible crime and it leaves lasting damage to its victims. Sadly, some victims of assault are children who may be incapable of truly understanding what is happening to them at the time. However, years later, when this poor child comes to understand what happened, they are faced with the reality that someone who is supposed to be looking after their well-being actually betrayed them. This leaves real and very lasting damage that can take decades, if not years, for the person to deal with.

In some instances, sexual assault victims may not discover their injuries or the violation until adulthood, years after the abuse happened, years after the processing of their own internal trauma, years after feeling strong enough finally to go public.

A perfect example of this is in child pornography. How is a young child supposed to find, process, and accuse someone of a crime that they simply didn't even know existed?

There are legitimate constitutional debates dealing with the criminal and civil process. We understand that. Current and future legal scholars will debate those. I am not a lawyer; I am a farmer. But as a farmer, I know we should be able to agree on one simple principle, and that principle is that these victims deserve their day in court, they deserve due process, and they deserve their time to face the person who assaulted them and to ask their fellow citizens or a judge for justice.

It is our responsibility to do what we can to protect child victims and to ensure that they have access to the courts. That is what this amendment is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I want to, in the effort of comity, offer this amendment, but I will ask to respectfully withdraw the amendment. This is an issue that is not going to go away. I know there are different perceptions on how we deal with this.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COSTA. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and his support for this important legislation.

Victims should, of course, have reasonable opportunity to seek justice and face their accusers in court. This bill is a good one and fair to all parties, and I look forward to working with the gentleman to get it to the President's desk.

Mr. COSTA. I will accept that and continue to work with the gentleman and Chairman GOODLATTE from Virginia, because, at the end of the day, to have some success and to move this forward, we are going to have to have reconciliation between the Senate bill and the House bill in how this is treated. I would hope that we would gain that agreement, and then we could move the legislation for signature.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. O'HALLERAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 115-152.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 25, strike "and" at the end.

Page 8, insert after line 10 the following:

"(E) requiring dedicated information and resources, which may include sexual assault hotlines and victims' support resources, to

be clearly listed on the national governing body's official website; and".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 352, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chair, as a former law enforcement officer, I know all too well what happens when our institutions fail to protect our most valued and treasured among us: our children.

The recent reports of young athletes experiencing sexual assault and abuse at the hands of trusted adults are not just abhorrent, they are unacceptable.

Last year, tragically, one of our own young gymnasts in Mesa, Arizona, came forward after years of abuse by a coach at his gym.

We must do better. No child anywhere should face the risk of abuse. That is why I am proud to support the bill before us today, which will go a long way in protecting our young athletes.

My bipartisan amendment, which is cosponsored by Congresswoman SINEMA and Congressman BIGGS, simply builds on the underlying bill's spirit by requiring national governing bodies to clearly list information and resources, which may include sexual assault hotlines and victim support resources, on their official websites.

As a former cop who has dealt with vulnerable victims, I know from my experience that resources like sexual assault hotlines are a critical tool between victims, families, local health providers, and law enforcement.

Requiring governing bodies, like USA Gymnastics, to clearly list this type of information on their websites is an important step forward in ensuring support for victims and their families.

As adults and parents, we place our children in the trusted hands of coaches, trainers, and others when we support and encourage their involvement in sports.

We all know sports play such a critical role in so many of our communities. It is where we learn about teamwork, resilience, hard work, and perseverance. These spaces should be safe for children to learn, grow, and develop as healthy athletes and adults.

We have a moral obligation to ensure our kids have protection and access to the information they deserve. My commonsense amendment helps do just that.

I thank Representative SINEMA and Representative BIGGS for their support on this amendment, as well as the sponsors of H.R. 1973 for their good work on this important bill.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to this commonsense amendment, as has just been articulated.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Mr. O'HALLERAN and Mr. BIGGS for offering this amendment. It will help to prevent abuse at these national governing bodies and, as stated, it will encourage children to report abuse when they are able to quickly and easily access this information.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. O'HALLERAN for yielding and for his leadership on this important issue.

Sexual abuse is abhorrent. It is particularly abhorrent when it is conducted by an individual in a position of authority: a coach, a trainer, a teacher.

The community of Mesa, Arizona, which Mr. BIGGS and I represent, was rocked by a tragic event in which a young athlete was abused for at least 3 years before receiving help. Had he or other young athletes experiencing similar nightmares had access to resources and support, perhaps the nightmare could have ended sooner, perhaps it could have been prevented.

Our bipartisan amendment is simple. It builds on a very good bipartisan bill by requiring governing bodies to list dedicated information and resources for victims and families on official websites.

No individual should suffer from sexual abuse. No family should go without support when they are in need.

I thank the two gentlemen, my friends from Arizona, Mr. O'HALLERAN and Mr. BIGGS, for cosponsoring this amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on our amendment and to support the underlying bill.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his courtesies. I want to enthusiastically congratulate and thank the gentlemen and gentlewoman from Arizona for responding to their constituents and answering a question positively about protecting our young people.

I spoke earlier today about what happens with young people and their aspirations when they engage in sports. They want to win, but they also want to, if you will, to impress adults and to show that they can do the very best that they can do.

So I want to congratulate them for this amendment that advances the purposes and goals of protecting young victims from sexual abuse by requiring the national governing bodies to include resources and information regarding sexual assault and having sexual assault hotlines and other victim support services on their websites.

With this new technology, it will be at their fingertips. They don't have to, in essence, expose themselves. They can get this information and readily access the very people that will help them.

So I want to congratulate the manager, Mr. CONYERS, and, of course, the chairman of the committee and the proponents of the underlying bill. I want to congratulate Mr. O'HALLERAN. His efforts here are to be commended, and I thank him for this insightful amendment to the legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCARTHY) having assumed the chair, Mr. POLIQUIN, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1761) 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, and, pursuant to House Resolution 352, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIQUIN). Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 question will be postponed.

□ 1015

#### PROTECTING AGAINST CHILD EXPLOITATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 352, I call up

the bill (H.R. 1761) to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize the knowing consent of the visual depiction, or live transmission, of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). Pursuant to House Resolution 352, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-19 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

#### H.R. 1761

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act of 2017".*

#### SEC. 2. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

*Section 2251 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—*

*(1) by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:*

*"(a) Any person who, in a circumstance described in subsection (f), knowingly—*

*"(1) employs, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces a minor to engage in any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, or transmitting a live visual depiction of such conduct;*

*"(2) produces or causes to be produced a visual depiction of a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct where the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and such visual depiction is of such conduct;*

*"(3) transmits or causes to be transmitted a live visual depiction of a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct;*

*"(4) has a minor assist any other person to engage in any sexually explicit conduct during the commission of an offense set forth in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection; or*

*"(5) transports any minor in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce with the intent that such minor be used in the production or live transmission of a visual depiction of a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct, shall be punished as provided under subsection (e)."*

*"(b) Any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody or control of a minor who, in a circumstance described in subsection (f), knowingly permits such minor to engage in, or to assist any other person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct knowing that a visual depiction of such conduct will be produced or transmitted shall be punished as provided under subsection (e)."*

*(2) in subsection (c)—*

*(A) in paragraph (1)—*

*(i) by striking "employs, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any minor to engage in, or who has a minor assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct" and inserting "engages in any conduct described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a)"; and*

*(ii) by striking "for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct,"*

*(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting after "transported" the following: "or transmitted"; and*