

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE WITHIN UNITED STATES OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DAINES, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 396

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a special committee of the Senate to be known as the Special Committee to Investigate Sexual Abuse Within United States Olympic Gymnastics (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the “special committee”).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the special committee is—

(1) to investigate the United States Olympic Committee and national sports governing bodies, including USA Gymnastics, and determine the extent to which these organizations were complicit in the criminal or negligent behavior of their employees relating to sexual abuse;

(2) to identify and recommend solutions to the systemic failures at the United States Olympic Committee and national sports governing bodies, including USA Gymnastics, that allowed for pervasive sexual abuse to continue for decades;

(3) to identify actions that must be taken by the United States Olympic Committee and national sports governing bodies, including USA Gymnastics, to ensure increased transparency and protections for children, athletes, and their families;

(4) to make such findings of fact as are warranted and appropriate; and

(5) to make such recommendations, including recommendations for new legislation and amendments to existing laws and any administrative or other actions, as the special committee may determine to be necessary or desirable.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—No proposed legislation shall be referred to the special committee, and the special committee shall not have power to report by bill or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

(d) **TREATMENT AS STANDING COMMITTEE.**—For purposes of paragraphs 1, 2, 7(a)(1), 7(a)(2), and 10(a) of rule XXVI and rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and subsections (i) and (j) of section 202 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301), the special committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The special committee shall consist of 8 members of the Senate, of whom—

(A) 4 shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate from the majority party of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the Senate; and

(B) 4 shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate from the minority party of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(2) **COMPOSITION.**—Not less than 4 of the members appointed under paragraph (1) shall be women.

(3) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the membership of the special committee shall—

(A) not affect the authority of the remaining members to execute the functions of the special committee; and

(B) be filled in the same manner as original appointments to the special committee are made.

(4) **SERVICE.**—For the purpose of paragraph 4 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member, chair, or vice chair of the special committee shall not be taken into account.

(b) **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The chair of the special committee shall be selected by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the vice chair of the special committee shall be selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(2) **VICE CHAIR DUTIES.**—The vice chair shall discharge such responsibilities as the special committee or the chair may assign.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of this resolution, the special committee may—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel;

(3) hold hearings;

(4) sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate;

(5) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents;

(6) take depositions and other testimony;

(7) issue interim reports, as necessary;

(8) procure the services of individual consultations or organizations thereof in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)); and

(9) with the prior consent of the Federal department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of the Federal department or agency.

(b) **OATHS FOR WITNESSES.**—The chair or any member of the special committee may administer oaths to witnesses.

(c) **SUBPOENAS.**—A subpoena authorized by the special committee may be—

(1) issued over the signature of—

(A) the chair after consultation with the vice chair; or

(B) any member of the special committee designated by the chair after consultation with the vice chair; and

(2) served by any person designated by the chair or the member signing the subpoena.

(d) **ACCESS OF MEMBERS TO INFORMATION.**—Each member of the special committee shall have equal and unimpeded access to information collected or otherwise obtained by the special committee.

SEC. 4. REPORT AND TERMINATION.

(a) **REPORT.**—The special committee shall report the findings of the special committee, together with such recommendations as the special committee deems advisable, to the Senate not later than the last day of the first session of the 116th Congress.

(b) **RECORDS.**—Upon termination of the special committee, all records, files, documents, and other materials in the possession, custody, or control of the special committee shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Senate under appropriate conditions established by the special committee, including conditions to protect information under the HIPAA privacy and security law, as defined in section 3009(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj-19(a)).

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

From the date on which this resolution is agreed to through the termination of the

special committee, the special committee shall use such funds as necessary to carry out the duties of the special committee.

SENATE RESOLUTION 397—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9, 2018, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 397

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 5 through 9, 2018, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for equal opportunities for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic, social and emotional, and career development;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 482 to 1, almost twice the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 5 through 9, 2018, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 398—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF “NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY” ON FEBRUARY 7, 2018, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 398

Whereas athletic participation helps develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills, and opportunities for athletic participation should be available to all individuals;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting equality, it is imperative to eliminate the existing disparities between male and female youth athletic programs;

Whereas the share of athletic participation opportunities of high school girls has increased more than sixfold since the passage of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “title IX”), but high school girls still experience—

(1) a lower share of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys; and

(2) a lower level of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys enjoyed almost 50 years ago;

Whereas female participation in college sports has nearly tripled since the passage of title IX, but female college athletes still only comprise 44 percent of the total collegiate athlete population;

Whereas, in 1972, women coached more than 90 percent of collegiate women’s teams, but now women coach less than 50 percent of all collegiate women teams, and there is a need to restore women to those positions to ensure fair representation and provide role models for young female athletes;

Whereas the long history of women in sports in the United States—

(1) features many contributions made by female athletes that have enriched the national life of the United States; and

(2) includes inspiring figures, such as Gertrude Ederle, Wilma Rudolph, Althea Gibson, Mildred Ella “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias, and Patty Berg, who overcame difficult obstacles in their own lives to—

(A) advance participation by women in sports; and

(B) set positive examples for the generations of female athletes who continue to inspire people in the United States today;

Whereas the United States must do all it can to support the bonds built between all athletes to break down the barriers of discrimination, inequality, and injustice;

Whereas girls and young women in minority communities are doubly disadvantaged because—

(1) schools in minority communities overall have fewer athletic opportunities; and

(2) the limited resources for athletic opportunities in those communities are not evenly distributed between male and female students;

Whereas, with the recent passage of bills such as the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 534, 115th Congress), Congress has taken steps to—

(1) protect female athletes from the crime of sexual abuse; and

(2) empower athletes to report sexual abuse when it occurs; and

Whereas, with the beginning of the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, it is more important than ever to ensure the safety and well-being of athletes by protecting those athletes from the crime of sexual abuse, which has harmed so many young athletes within youth athletic organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing “National Girls & Women in Sports Day” on February 7, 2018, to recognize—

(A) the female athletes who represent schools, universities, and the United States in their athletic pursuits; and

(B) the vital role that the people of the United States have in empowering girls and women in sports;

(2) marking the observation of National Girls & Women in Sports Day with appropriate programs and activities, including legislative efforts to protect young athletes from the crime of sexual abuse so that future generations of female athletes will not have to experience the pain that so many female athletes have had to endure; and

(3) all ongoing efforts to—

(A) promote equality in sports and access to athletic opportunities for girls and women; and

(B) support the commitment of the United States to expanding athletic participation for all girls and future generations of women athletes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a Senate Resolution recognizing February 7, 2018 as “National Girls & Women in Sports Day”. Since the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, our Nation has taken many big steps toward achieving equality for women in our Nation’s athletic institutions. In fact, since then, participation by high school girls in athletic programs has increased more than six fold. And in college sports, participation by women athletes has nearly tripled since the passage of Title IX.

However, many disparities still exist between male and female athletic programs in our Nation today. Because there are simply fewer athletic opportunities and programs for girls, there are lower levels of participation in sports amongst present day high school girls than there were for high school boys in the 1970s.

Across college campuses, women athletes still comprise only 44 percent of the collegiate athlete population. And in some instances, the numbers have even shrunk over time. In 1972, women occupied more than 90 percent of coaching positions with collegiate women’s teams. Today, women occupy less than half of these coaching positions.

This resolution recognizes how far we have come, but more importantly, it acknowledges how much farther we still have to go to achieve equality for our female athletes. In looking to the future and resolving together that more must be done to provide girls and women equal opportunity in sports, we also celebrate and recognize female athletes from the past who have faced difficult obstacles in their lives to advance the participation of women in sports.

We honor athletes like Althea Gibson, who was the first African-American athlete to break down racial barriers in international tennis and who, in 1956, became the first person of color to win a Grand Slam tennis title with her victory at the French Open.

We celebrate “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias, who, in addition to the Olympic medals she won at the 1932 Olympic Games in track and field, challenged conventions in the sport of golf to become the first woman in history who attempted to qualify in the U.S. Open tournament.

We salute Wilma Rudolph, who in the 1960s was considered the fastest woman in the world and, with her performance at the 1960 Olympic Games, was the first American woman to achieve three gold medals at any single Olympics event in history.

Each of these women faced tremendous difficulties to break down barriers in their respective sports to change not just the culture of sports in our Nation, but ultimately, to improve our country. Their names were inscribed in sports history, and in the process they became positive role models for entire generations of female athletes who continue to inspire us all with their talents. Finally, this resolution recognizes the importance of supporting girls and women in sports by holding to account those who use their positions of power—both individual and institutional in nature—to abuse and exploit.

Mr. President, our Nation continues to struggle with the revelations that hundreds of young female athletes were sexually abused within USA Gymnastics affiliated institutions. The stories of these survivors, who endured such horrific abuse at the hands of professionals entrusted to develop their athletic talents, are absolutely heartbreaking and our Nation must do more to prevent these crimes from ever happening again. To put an end to this abuse, on January 30, 2018, Congress passed the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, which I had authored and introduced to require all Olympic sports organizations and amateur sports organizations to immediately report allegations of sexual abuse to law enforcement.

As the Winter Olympics begin this week in South Korea, our Nation must continue to do everything we can to enforce this legislation and advocate on behalf of these young athletes whose lives have been turned upside down by the abuse that they endured.

I would also like to thank the National Women’s Law Center and the National Girls & Women in Sports Day Coalition for their support of this resolution. All young people in our Nation deserve equal access to freely participate in athletic programs and to feel safe and secure so they can thrive within their chosen sports. With these goals in mind, I call on all of us to examine the progress we have made and