

S. 534 PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE ACT

Supported by: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), National Council of Youth Sports, National Center for Sexual Exploitation, Safe4Athletes, National Children's Alliance, National Crime Victims Law Institute, Rights4Girls, University of Utah Law Professor Paul Cassell, Child Sex Crime Victims' Lawyer James Marsh, Crime Victims Expert Steve Twist, National Crime Victims Center, National Association of VOCA Administrators, Child USA, National Organization for Victim Assistance, ToPrevail, ChampionWomen, Child Welfare League of America, National Survivor Advocates Coalition, National Network to End Domestic Violence, The Lauren's Kids Foundation, National Children's Advocacy Center, the National Association to Protect Children, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Futures without Violence, Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), Shared Hope International, National District Attorneys Association, USA Gymnastics, and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

THE PROBLEM

- According to the *Indianapolis Star*, over the past **20 years**, up to **368 victims** (who were members of the **USA Gymnastics'** family) were subjected to sexual abuse by coaches, doctors, or other adults affiliated with USA Gymnastics.
- Although USA Gymnastics received reports of abuse, **victims claimed USA Gymnastics allowed the abuse allegations to remain dormant**. This includes complaints made against coaches that left gyms in one state and then moved to another state to continue abusing young athletes.
- USA Gymnastics has claimed the *Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act* prevents it from disciplining coaches when allegations are made against them.

THE SOLUTION: PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE ACT

Extends the mandatory reporting requirement of child abuse on federal lands to include individuals affiliated with USA Gymnastics (or other similar organization) to ensure that reports are immediately made to local or federal law enforcement authorities.

Bolsters "Masha's Law" – the 2006 law that allows civil suits by minors against sex abuse perpetrators by eliminating the requirement that victims must prove monetary damages after they have already proven that the perpetrator sexually abused them. The bill also extends the civil statute of limitations for cases.

Requires National Governing Bodies like USA Gymnastics to develop for each of its members: specific policies and procedures for mandatory reporting of sex abuse to law enforcement; policies and procedures to keep track of coaches who leave one gym due to complaints and then go to another gym and repeat cycles of abuse; and stronger oversight and enforcement policies so that sexual abuse is prevented.