

November 13, 2019

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member  
Homeland Security and Governmental  
Affairs Committee  
United States Senate  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Peters:

The undersigned leadership of the Make It Safe Coalition thanks you for your leadership on an amendment to the Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019 (S. 2330), to protect abuse victims in the U.S. Olympics and Paralympics from retaliation. The Make It Safe Coalition is a non-partisan whistleblower advocacy network whose members pursue a wide variety of missions that span defense, homeland security, medical and pharmaceutical safety, natural disasters, scientific integrity, constitutional rights, consumer hazards, and corruption in government contracting and procurement. We are united in the cause of protecting those who honor their duties to serve and warn the public.

This legislation would amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. § 220501(b), to include protections from retaliation for certain individuals who report abuse or harassment in amateur sports. Specifically, it requires: the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) to establish mechanisms for the reporting, investigation, and resolution of retaliation claims; disciplinary action for retaliators; whistleblower remedies, including reinstatement and compensatory damages; access to a jury trial to challenge retaliation, if the Center has not issued a final decision within 180 days; the burden of proof established in the Whistleblower Protection Act; the option for review by a U.S. Court of Appeals, and; “anti-gag” protections against any employment agreement or policy.

This legislation reflects best practice whistleblower protections and it should be advanced without delay. Thank you for your leadership on this legislation. We look forward to continuing to work with your offices to advance this important measure.

Sincerely,

ACORN8  
Government Accountability Project  
Project On Government Oversight  
Public Citizen  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance  
Whistleblowers of America