

# Senate Olympics Investigation

Senator Jerry Moran & Senator Richard Blumenthal



## SENATORS JERRY MORAN AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL'S EMPOWERING OLYMPIC AND AMATEUR ATHLETES ACT OF 2019

An 18-month bipartisan investigation by Senators Moran (R-Kan.) and Blumenthal (D-Conn.) found that coaches and powerful individuals within the Olympic movement were able to assault young athletes because of a lack of oversight, independence, and transparency, and that, ultimately, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has failed to protect its athletes from sexual abuse. The *Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019* will restore integrity to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee through three categories of governance reforms.

### Strengthening Legal Liability and Accountability Mechanisms

*This bill will prevent future governance failures within the U.S. Olympic movement by:*

- Imposing greater legal liability on both the U.S. Olympic Committee and National Governing Bodies—the amateur athlete organizations that oversee Olympic sports—for bad acts, including sexual abuse by coaches and employees.
- Establishing legislative mechanisms by which Congress can dissolve the Board of the U.S. Olympic Committee and decertify National Governing Bodies.
- Increasing amateur athletes' level of representation on the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committees board from 1/5 to 1/3. The bill also guarantees that 1/3 of National Governing Bodies' governing structures will be filled by amateur athletes.
- Requiring the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to provide greater oversight over National Governing Bodies.
- Providing the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee with greater tools to discipline National Governing Bodies that are failing to protect athletes.

### Restoring a Culture of Putting Athletes First

*This bill ensures that the Olympic movement will protect survivors by:*

- Requiring the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to establish clear procedures and reporting requirements that will protect athletes going forward.
- Imposing clear responsibilities to protect athletes that participate in sports programs administered by National Governing Bodies.
- Bolstering the Office of the Ombudsman's authority and independence to aid athletes who have been assaulted or abused—whether that be sexually, physically, or emotionally.

### Fortifying the Independence of the Center for SafeSport

*The Center for SafeSport is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse against athletes, and this bill strengthens the Center by:*

- Requiring the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to pay the Center for SafeSport \$20 million annually for operating costs.
- Barring individuals that are employed by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee or a National Governing Body from serving the Center for SafeSport.
- Requiring the Center for SafeSport to report to Congress within 72 hours any attempt by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee or a National Governing Body to interfere with the Center's work.