

McKayla Maroney

Statement for 9/15 Hearing

MCKAYLA MARONEY STATEMENT
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING

Good morning. Thank you Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Judiciary Committee for inviting me to speak today.

As most of you are probably aware, I was molested by the USA Gymnastics National Team, and Olympic Team doctor, Larry Nassar. In actuality, he turned out to be more of a pedophile than he was a doctor, as I was molested hundreds of times in my bed, including the night before competing in the Olympic Games in London. I'm not here to talk about that though, but what I do need to talk to you about is unfortunately for me, something equally disturbing, and I can't even believe I am here having to speak up about it. Recently I found out that when I reported the abuse that I had endured to the FBI, that there were certain FBI agents who chose to falsify what I said and conceal Nassar's crimes from the public, the media, other law enforcement agencies, and most importantly, other victims. After reading the Office of the Inspector General's ("OIG") report, I felt completely betrayed because when I disclosed my abuse to those whom I believed were trusted to protect the public, they chose to lie about what I said, they chose to silence me and attempted to discredit me. They chose to protect a serial child molester, rather than protect not only me but countless others. What I'm trying to bring to your attention today is that sworn law enforcement agents multiple times made "materially false statements", in the OIG report and it was directly attributed to me.

My story is one in which Special Agent In-Charge, Jay Abbott, and his subordinates, did not want you to hear. From my earliest memories, I always wanted to be a gymnast. I wanted to represent my country, and I wanted to make my parents proud. My mother, who served in the United States Navy, instilled the importance of patriotism and sacrifice in me. More than anything, I wanted to one day win medals for Team USA. My entire family sacrificed time, money, family vacations, and a normal childhood, for me to achieve this goal. In 2012, I achieved my dream and I won a Gold and Silver Medal in London not only for myself but for my country. The sad truth is that during the pinnacle of my success as a gymnast, I was being molested by my team doctor, Larry Nassar. The abuse occurred daily at the Karolyi Ranch, as well as at international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Games. In the summer of 2015, I was asked to speak with the FBI about Nassar's abuse. I remember sitting on my bedroom floor for nearly three hours, as I told them what had happened to me over the phone. I hadn't even told my own mother about these facts, and it was the most uncomfortable conversation I had ever had in my life, but I thought as uncomfortable as it was, I was making a difference, and hopefully protecting others from the same abuse. I answered all of their questions honestly, and I disclosed all of the molestations I had endured by Nassar to them, in detail. I thought and trusted that they would act quickly for the sake of other girls. I waited, and I waited and heard nothing. They betrayed me, they betrayed my trust, and they sat idly by, as dozens of girls and women continued to be molested by Larry Nassar. According to the OIG Report, about 17 months after I disclosed my abuse to FBI agents (nearly a year and a half later), the FBI agent who interviewed me in 2015, decided to write down my "statement"; a statement that the OIG Report determined to be "materially false."

Years after waiting for this report, and waiting to see Nassar's mug shot in the news, these sworn-in law enforcement officers lied about what I said, and they fabricated a statement that wasn't even the truth. I ask what is the point of me telling the truth about what happened when they lie about what I said? I spent three hours telling them my story, and they didn't even have the integrity or moral character to make a statement, and when they finally get around to writing a report, over a year and a half later, they wrote up a statement that was completely inaccurate, and misleading. It wasn't even close to the truth! Let's be honest, by not taking immediate action from my report, they allowed a child molester to go free for more than a year, and this inaction directly allowed Nassar's abuse to continue. This all doesn't even make sense. What is the point of reporting abuse if our own FBI agents are going to take it upon themselves to bury that report in a drawer. They had legal legitimate evidence of child abuse, and did nothing. Who are they trying to protect? What's even more upsetting to me, is that we know that these FBI agents have committed an obvious crime, they falsified MY statement and that in itself is illegal, yet no recourse is being taken against them. Nothing! These individuals clearly violated policies and were negligent in executing their duties, and in doing so more girls were abused by Larry Nassar for over a year! The Department of Justice refused to prosecute these individuals. Why? They haven't even had any discipline imposed, and in my opinion, this is not ok! Why did I bother speaking up when I did, when no one with any authority was going to do anything about it for over a year? Why are they not being investigated? It's wrong, and it's a slap in MY face! To not indict these agents, is a disservice to me and my teammates. It is a disservice to the system which was built to protect all of us from abuse. It is a disservice to every victim who suffered needlessly at the hands of Larry Nassar after I spoke up! Why are public servants whose job is to protect, getting away with this? This is not justice. This is more injustice! Enough is enough! I want justice!

Today I ask you all to hear my voice. I ask that you please do all that is in your power to ensure that these individuals are held responsible, and accountable for ignoring my initial report, for lying about my initial report, and for covering up for a child molester, and for endangering others. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the United States Senate, the only powerful institution that from the very beginning, has fought for us, rather than against us.

Thank you.