



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

**CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED
“DERELICTION OF DUTY: EXAMINING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT ON
THE FBI’S HANDLING OF THE LARRY NASSAR INVESTIGATION”**

**PRESENTED
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

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Good morning, Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss the Office of Inspector General’s (“OIG”) report of its *Investigation and Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastic Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar*. I want to make clear at the outset that the actions and inaction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) employees in 2015 and 2016 described in the report are inexcusable, and a discredit to this organization and the values we hold dear. I want to offer my apologies, sympathy, and support to the survivors and their families.

The FBI fully accepts the OIG’s recommendations and has already begun implementing corrective actions in response to them, to ensure the failures described in the report never happen again. Our Office of Professional Responsibility is reviewing the OIG’s findings to adjudicate appropriate discipline for any current FBI employees who engaged in misconduct. We are enhancing our policies, procedures, and training to ensure that serious allegations of abuse are treated with the utmost urgency and care.

First, the FBI is changing policy and practice related to the handling of reports of sexual abuse and sexual assault. The FBI’s Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide (“DIOG”) is being updated to clarify the documentation and retention requirements for information regarding sexual abuse and sexual assault received prior to the opening of an investigation or prior to a determination that further investigative activity is warranted. The relevant section of the DIOG is being modified to mandate a 30-day recurrent review period for this type of

information. Finally, we are adding policy language to emphasize that supervisors may not approve documentation that they drafted themselves.

Second, to enhance accountability, we are incorporating new language and documentation requirements into the DIOG for allegations of crimes against children to ensure that such complaints are handled expediently. Recognizing that coordination among law enforcement agencies is essential, these improvements will strengthen information dissemination practices to our partners. We are also implementing improvements related to transferring complaints and investigations between field offices when they involve allegations of crimes against children, to ensure that allegations like the ones against Nassar are not mishandled in the future.

Third, the FBI's Victim Services Division has thoroughly reviewed the report and is taking steps to ensure that our support of victims and survivors is robust and reflective of the critical obligation to care for individuals who have been traumatized, abused, and victimized. The FBI is updating the DIOG to permit telephonic interviews of minor victims only in limited, exigent circumstances. The FBI has already issued an updated policy guide for handling matters related to victims, including child victims or individuals who were minors at the time of the alleged criminal activity.

With respect to training, the FBI has updated its mandatory annual training to remind all FBI personnel of their obligation to report child abuse. In addition, the FBI developed new mandatory supervisor training for all headquarters and field supervisors who manage investigations related to crimes against children, and is also creating new training for investigative personnel specific to this type of crime that focuses on, among other topics, thoroughness and urgency.

In implementing these improvements, I want to emphasize that we will not forget the victims who suffered abuse and mistreatment because of missed opportunities to disrupt Nassar's criminal behavior before his November 2016 arrest. Protecting the American people is the FBI's highest priority. We will continue to make improvements and take steps to make sure that we are fulfilling that critical mission.

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.