

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 22, 2022

By Electronic Transmission

Sophie Goldschmidt, President & CEO
Alison Pitt, General Counsel
U.S. Ski & Snowboard
1 Victory Lane
Box 100
Park City, UT 84060

Dear Ms. Goldschmidt and Ms. Pitt:

I write concerning reports that the Committee on the Judiciary received from the United States Center for SafeSport (the Center) about allegations of sexual misconduct committed by Peter Foley, Head Coach for the U.S. Snowboard Team, and allegations of interference by U.S. Ski and Snowboard with the investigation being conducted by the Center into the actions of Peter Foley.

First and foremost, Congress takes seriously all reports of sexual abuse targeting amateur athletes by those entrusted with their training and care. Our Committee's hearing in September of 2021 on the sexual abuse of Olympic gymnasts by a former national team physician, Lawrence Nassar, underscores this point.

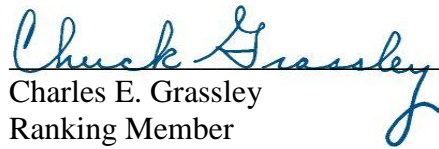
With my support, Congress has enacted laws to protect amateur athletes from sexual abuse. The Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020 ("The Act"), *see* 36 U.S.C. § 220541 *et seq.*, established safeguards to protect amateur athletes from sexual abuse by coaches and employees in U.S. Olympic and Paralympic sports. National governing bodies ("NGBs") like U.S. Ski and Snowboard have a duty to protect amateur athletes from sexual abuse, and they must *report immediately* any reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse to *both* law enforcement and the Center. *See* 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(A).

The Act also gives the Center authority to investigate each NGB allegation of sexual abuse against amateur athletes, *see* 36 U.S.C. § 220541(a)(1), and the law prohibits NGBs from interfering in any investigation conducted by the Center, *see* 36 U.S.C. § 220541(f)(4)(A) ("[T]he national governing bodies shall not interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of, an investigation."). The law further requires that the Center report to Congress any interference, *see* 36 U.S.C. § 220541(f)(4)(B), and, as stated, the Center has reported to us that U.S. Ski and Snowboard is interfering with an investigation concerning the abuse of athletes.

The reports shared by the Center are very troubling. They allege that U.S. Ski and Snowboard leadership has been conducting its own investigation outside of the investigation being conducted by the Center, has failed to make notifications regarding sexual misconduct to the Center, and has failed to timely provide the Center with evidence in the possession of U.S. Ski and Snowboard. Further, it has been reported that U.S. Ski and Snowboard has actively provided misinformation to individuals involved in the investigation in an effort to discourage participation in the Center's investigation and to attempt to identify who may be participating in the investigation.

I therefore write to remind U.S. Ski and Snowboard of its obligations under the law. As the Nassar case exemplifies, inaction may lead to many more victims being harmed, which would be intolerable. I have further referred the Center's concerns in this matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" at the end.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Cc: Ju'Riese Colon, Chief Executive Officer
United States Center for SafeSport