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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 24, 2014

Mark Emmert
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear Mr. Emmert,

I am writing to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regarding the oversight of campus sexual assaults by its member institutions.

On July 9, 2014, I released a report titled, "Sexual Assault on Campus," that included results of a survey of 440 institutions of higher education. In that survey, I asked for detailed answers on how sexual assaults on campuses are reported and investigated. One of the questions asked schools if "Athletic Department oversight of sexual violence involving student athletes" was present as part of the school's policies and procedures for addressing sexual assault. Of the Division I, II, and III schools that provided responses to the survey, 30% of them responded "yes" to that question.

Also on July 9, 2014, the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing titled, "Promoting the Well-Being and Academic Success of College Athletes," at which you testified. At the hearing, I asked you about this statistic, and you agreed that the 30% figure potentially presented conflicts of interest that would be troublesome for sexual assault victims.

I appreciate your concern, and your efforts to follow up with me and my staff regarding this problem. As you know, sexual assault on college campuses is a deep and pervasive problem that requires response from multiple fronts, and athletic organizations like the NCAA are an important part of an effective solution. I hope you will explore how the NCAA can help its member institutions address the problem of sexual assaults on campus. As part of that process, I encourage the NCAA to conduct a survey of its member institutions regarding campus sexual assaults, including any involvement by athletic departments in the investigation and adjudication of incidents involving student athletes, and, based on the results of the survey, take appropriate steps to ensure that the administrative process at NCAA member institutions is fair for all students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to make campuses safer.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

cc: Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight