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June 17, 2013

**VIA FACSIMILE: 202-512-5804**

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington DC 20548-0001

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

In July of last year, I asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine a number of issues concerning existing laws that seek to prevent and address the abuse of children in schools. At that time, sexual abuse scandals on the campuses of the Pennsylvania State University and the Citadel brought to light the possibility such laws specifically designed and intended to keep children safe required closer scrutiny.

Recent reports about the abuse of student athletes participating in public and private swim clubs have raised a number of new concerns about whether we have adequate laws and policies in place to prevent and address such abuse. Accordingly, I write today to supplement my July 2012 request to include information about the prevalence of abuse among student athletes and the manner in which such abuse cases are reported, investigated and resolved.

Because federal child protection laws are not specifically directed toward student athletes and their participation in athletic clubs—as well as the coaches and staff who run them—existing state laws vary in what they require when allegations of abuse arise. The reports last month about the decades-old case of sexual abuse of a child swimmer by her adult coach Rick Curl raise significant questions around who is effectively overseeing the adults with whom we entrust the care of our student athletes.

In light of the troubling facts emerging from the Rick Curl and other abuse cases, and my long-standing commitment to protect our nation's children, I respectfully request that GAO address the following questions:

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
June 18, 2013  
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- 1) What is the prevalence of sexual and other abuse among student athletes participating in athletic clubs?
- 2) When incidences of abuse occur on school property or institutions of post-secondary education, how are such incidents reported, investigated and resolved?
- 3) How do athletic clubs report, investigate and resolve incidents of alleged sexual or other abuse? What roles, responsibilities and duties apply to the club's leadership as well as the coaches and staff who run these clubs?
- 4) What policies and procedures are in place to prevent and deter sexual and other abuse among student athletes?
- 5) How are conflicts between existing mandatory child abuse reporting laws and the rules and regulations governing athletic clubs identified and resolved?

I appreciate your assistance with this request. Please direct your staff to coordinate GAO's response with Scott Groginsky of the Committee's Democratic staff at (202) 225-3725.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "G".

**GEORGE MILLER**  
Senior Democratic Member

cc: Chairman John Kline