

## Responses to Written Questions Submitted by Honorable Jerry Moran to Han Xiao

*Question.* With respect to the Center for SafeSport, one of the primary concerns we have heard through the course of this investigation is that the Center is not truly independent from USOC, which results in a lack of trust on the part of athletes. I would like to hear both of your perspectives on this matter. First, do you believe it is true that SafeSport is not truly independent? If not, why? What can be done to either rectify this or reassure athletes that SafeSport is truly independent and is focused entirely on their best interests, not that of USOC?

*Response.* I believe that the SafeSport board is independent. However, there are concerns regarding SafeSport's funding sources as well as the presence of former USOC employees within the SafeSport staff. Having the majority of SafeSport funding come from the USOC and NGBs and having former USOC staff on the payroll cause some athletes and advocates to question whether the Center is truly independent, especially when they are dissatisfied with the Center's operations or policies. Both of these concerns will take time to rectify, but they will need to be addressed long-term to reassure athletes that SafeSport is completely independent and is focused entirely on protecting athletes.

In the meantime, a crucial step to instill confidence in athletes is to improve both the competence and transparency of the Center for SafeSport's operations. Ensuring that cases are handled in a timely manner, improving processing time of cases, protecting confidentiality, and communicating in a consistent manner throughout an investigation are all ways that the Center can earn the trust of all parties involved. In addition, competently investigating cases while protecting due process rights of all parties will prevent the SafeSport complaint process from being weaponized. Increased transparency into the process by which SafeSport investigates and adjudicates cases will also allow athletes to see whether the Center is acting in an independent manner and allow the Center to receive more applicable feedback and continuously improve its process. This would go a long way towards increasing trust in the Center for SafeSport while independence concerns continue to be addressed.