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**CONTACT: LAWRENCE ROBERT
323-236-9992**

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST JORDYN WIEBER TELLS MSU PRESIDENT JOHN ENGLER “SURVIVORS ARE NOT YOUR ENEMY” IN SPEECH TO MSU STUDENTS

Lansing, MI - In a speech to MSU students, faculty and staff sponsored by the Michigan State University Residence Halls Association, Olympic Gold Medalist Jordyn Wieber criticized MSU President John Engler for his combative approach in dealing with sexual assault survivors of former MSU and US Olympic team doctor Larry Nassar.

“I have a message for President Engler that I hope he will hear and take to heart. Survivors are not your enemy. We want MSU to move forward, rebuild its reputation and thrive. We want students to be safe on this campus. Stop fighting us and work with us so that we can all move forward, together,” said Ms. Wieber.

Engler has faced a firestorm of criticism from Nassar survivors, State elected officials and the media for what many see as a heavy-handed approach to dealing with the largest child sexual assault scandal in history.

Engler appeared at a legislative committee hearing last week, where lawmakers asked him to update them, but Engler spent much of the hearing lambasting lawmakers for approving a package of bills designed to help prevent sexual assault, saying the state Senate had “interfered” in the university’s continuing settlement negotiations with Nassar’s victims by giving their lawyers greater leverage.

In court filings, MSU continues to deny legal responsibility for Nassar’s actions even though many of his alleged assaults occurred at his clinic on the MSU Campus.

At the conclusion of her speech, Ms. Wieber called upon the students to join her fight against sexual harassment and abuse.

She said, “I have taken something horrible that happened to me and my goal is to use it to make changes that protect children and students everywhere. Whether you are a survivor or not, I invite you all to do the same. Speak your truth to people in power. Demand change and change will happen. We all need to stand up, speak out, and I don’t know about you, but until every survivor feels empowered to do this, I will not stop.”

Ms. Wieber is a former member of the US Women's "Fierce Five" Women's Gymnastics team that won a team gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in London. She is one of 256 women who gave victim impact statements at Nassar's sentencing hearings. Her Olympic teammates Aly Raisman, MacKayla Maroney, Gabby Douglas and Simone Biles have all alleged assaults by Nassar.

Manly, Stewart & Finaldi is California's leading law firm representing child victims of sexual abuse. The firm has represented more than 150 victims of clergy sexual abuse in California and hundreds of others throughout the United States. The firm also represented plaintiffs in the \$140,000,000 settlement against LAUSD in the Miramonte case, the largest sex abuse settlement against a School District in the US. The firm currently represents more than 140 alleged victims of former Michigan State University and U.S. Women's Gymnastics Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar