



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2018

CONTACT: LAWRENCE ROBERT

323-236-9992

LARRY NASSAR “SISTER SURVIVORS” CALL FOR MSU BOARD TO REMOVE INTERIM PRESIDENT JOHN ENGLER AT FRIDAY’S BOARD MEETING

126 girls and women whom reported sexual abuse by disgraced former MSU doctor Larry Nassar have issued a statement calling upon the MSU Board of Trustees to take action against interim president John Engler,

The statement comes in response to emails between John Engler and Carol Viventi, an MSU Vice-President and Special Counsel revealed by The Detroit Free Press last week. According to emails, Engler has criticized lawyers who represent Nassar's assault victims and suggested that Rachael Denhollander, the first woman to go public with her accusations against Nassar, was probably getting a "kickback" from her attorney John Manly.

Since this report became public, three leading candidates for Governor of Michigan from both parties have called for Engler’s resignation. They have been joined by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D), U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, (D) Flint Township, U.S Rep Sander Levin, (D) Royal Oak, U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, (D) Southfield, U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, (R) Cascade Township, State Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekoff, (R) West Olive, State Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Rick Jones, (R) Grand Ledge, and state Sen. Margaret O'Brien, (R) Portage. MSU Trustees Brian Mosallam and Dianne Byrum have also asked Engler to step aside.

The Sister Survivors’ statement says, “We, the Sister Survivors of Larry Nassar’s horrific sexual abuse, stand together against the recent character attacks made towards us and derogatory statements vilely aimed at all survivors of sexual abuse by Michigan State University President John Engler. While our hope had been that President Engler would bring accountability, transparency and change to MSU, it is clear to us that he cannot.”

[Click here for entire statement.](#)

Rachael Denhollander, the Nassar victim mentioned in the Engler emails said, "Leadership isn't going along to get along. Leadership is doing the hard and right things, no matter what. Trustees Mossalum and Bynum have taken the first step by condemning John Engler’s reprehensible statements and asking for his removal. The rest of the trustees need to start actually leading, like they were elected to do."

[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 180 alleged victims of former Michigan State University and U.S. Women's Gymnastics Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar. Michigan State University has settled this case for \$500,000,000, this is the largest settlement of any personal injury case against a University.