



**DAWN BUCKINGHAM**

STATE SENATOR

## **State Senator Dawn Buckingham Statement on Dr. Larry Nassar**

Over the past several days I have grieved with each witness who testified against Larry Nassar, who is now a convicted child sex abuser and expected to spend the rest of his natural life in prison.

As a physician, wife, and mom, I am sickened to learn what happened to so many young girls and horrified that some of the vile and heinous acts against them were carried out in Texas.

No one should ever be allowed to hide behind a license to prey on those of any age. I am committed to finding out how this sort of criminal behavior could fall through the cracks, and to fight for additional protections to prevent this from ever happening again.

Today, I also want to send a message to anyone in a potentially abusive situation at this very moment.

If you are being victimized - or you are aware of someone who is - I encourage you to report this abuse directly to law enforcement. There's no need to wait a single minute longer.

What happened in this case is tragic and inexcusable.

There is never an excuse for abuse.

I applaud the brave young women who stepped out of the shadows to shine the light on Larry Nassar and his crimes. Your courage is an inspiration to us all, and your stories serve as reminders that vulnerable voices must never be ignored.

We are all listening - and we will continue to listen.

###

(Video Statement available at:

[http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip\\_id=13131](http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=13131))