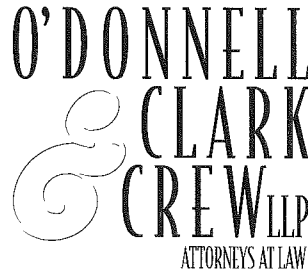


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October 18, 2012

The Honorable Elton Gallegly
Chairman, House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
United States Congress
Washington DC 20515-0524

Re: Boy Scouts of America - Call for Congressional Audit of Youth Safety Policies

Dear Chair Gallegly:

This letter constitutes a respectful request that the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, pursuant to 36 USC 30908 and 36 USC 10101, exercise its oversight authority over the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”), a congressionally chartered corporation, to commission a safety audit of the current child protection policies and practices of the BSA.

The undersigned attorneys have for years represented victims of child sexual abuse in Scouting throughout the country. Today, pursuant to an order of the Oregon Supreme Court, we publicly released for the first time over 14,500 pages of documents representing the so called “Perversion Files” from 1965 to 1985, compiled by the BSA concerning child sexual abuse within that organization. These documents were produced by the BSA during the 2010 trial of *Jack Doe 4 v. Boy Scouts of America, et al*, Multnomah County, Oregon Case No. 0710-11294. The case resulted in a jury verdict of \$19.9 million, including \$18.5 million in punitive damages against the Boy Scouts, for “knowingly allowing or permitting” child abuse within the organization – a requirement under Oregon law for such a verdict.

In response to such abuse complaints as were brought in the *Jack Doe 4* case, and in similar cases around the country, the BSA has repeatedly assured parents, communities, and the nation that they have made substantial improvements in their child protection policies, beginning in the late 1980's. Indeed, the BSA now claims it has the finest child protection policies in the nation. We hope that it is so. However, given the history of abuse in Scouting, the findings of the Portland jury, and the fact that Scout leaders are still being arrested for sexually abusing Scouts, we think it only prudent that Congress exercise its oversight authority to verify the quality, consistency, and efficacy of the BSA's child abuse protection programs and policies.

This letter constitutes a respectful request that the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, pursuant to 36 USC 30908 and 36 USC 10101, exercise its oversight authority over the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA"), a congressionally chartered corporation, to commission a safety audit of the current child protection policies and practices of the BSA.

The BSA is a valuable and respected organization that mentors hundreds of thousands of young boys so they can become responsible and admirable young men. To ensure that the BSA is living up to its best and highest ideals, we respectfully request that Congress take appropriate steps to ensure the ongoing and current safety of youth in Scouting.

Very truly yours,

Kelly Clark

Paul A. Mones
Co-Counsel
Jack Doe 4 v. BSA

KWC/jez

cc: Committee members
Speaker of the House John Boehner
House Majority Leader Eric Cantor
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Boy Scouts of America, Attn: Richard Mathews, General Counsel