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Statement of Gloria Allred

I am here today with Kally Wayne, who was formerly a United States Marine.

Kally is one of many female Marines victimized by the posting on social media of sexually explicit photos or videos or non-sexual photos of them by male United States Marines without the knowledge or consent of the victims whose photos or videos were posted.

As a result of the postings many obscene, threatening, denigrating and sexually harassing comments about the victims were also posted by other United States Marines.

These postings and the comments which followed brought dishonor to the United States Marine Corps and resulted in a written warning by United States Marine Commandant General Neller to all Marines about the consequences they could face for “inappropriate on-line conduct.”¹

General Neller warned that such conduct may be punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) which prohibits sexual harassment or Article 134 which “prohibits a variety of offensive conduct, including indecent language.” He also warned about other regulations and laws that may be violated by such conduct.

Despite the General’s warning, however, we are disappointed to have to report that such offensive and prohibited conduct continues and is still bringing dishonor to the otherwise proud United States Marine Corps. That is why we are here today. Kally Wayne, for example, found the courage to speak out today because she is still being harassed on line, including posts published this week by United States Marines who are still contacting her and engaging in victim blaming and victim shaming because of a video of her that she never agreed to have posted and never wanted the public to ever see.

This continued harassment of her by United States Marines who are ignoring General Neller’s warning is completely unacceptable and we will not tolerate it. The United States Marines can and must take action to enforce General Neller’s warning and impose appropriate consequences. Further, there is a bill in the Senate/House Conference Committee which would further criminalize the posting of sexually explicit videos or photos without the consent of the victim. We hope

that this important legislation will be signed into law to add more protection for victims.

Kally Wayne has been very courageous to come forward once again today. She has done so because she wants others who have been victimized to report to NCIS what has happened to them because imposing consequences on the wrongdoers who are engaging in this sexist disgraceful and, in many cases illegal misconduct, is the only way to stop it in the future. Kally realizes that speaking out is likely to increase the retaliation against her but she is doing this because she wants to encourage other victims to report to NCIS. I am proud of her and all of the other female United States Marines who have spoken out in order to restore the honor to the United States Marines Corps which so many Marines rightly deserve.

This scandal will not end until serious consequences are imposed. We will not stop speaking out until respect is restored for the women of the United States Marines, and they are afforded the justice and equal treatment that they are entitled to enjoy.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Kally Wayne
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1. Social Media Guidance-Unofficial internet posts: 3/14/2017