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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred regarding the
Marine's United Scandal

Erica Butner, a very brave former Marine and I are here today in support of Congress member Jackie Speier's bill which will help to impose serious consequences on those who would engage in criminal behavior intended to denigrate, damage, and place in harm's way our very brave female Marines.

Last week, Erica and Marisa Woytek and I held a press conference to address the victimization of many female Marines by the Marines United webpage and other pages which had posted photos of women Marines without the knowledge or consent of the women. In some photos, the women were fully clothed. In others the women were only partially clothed or naked.

As a result of the posting of these photos, many male Marines or veteran Marines posted comments that were

vulgar, demeaning, and misogynistic. Some comments suggested sexually assaulting the women Marines or having the women Marines killed by “friendly fire.”

The photos then migrated to other pages, and some pages began to post unconsented to photos of women in other branches of the Armed Services. In addition, on certain pages the contact information for the targeted women included where they were stationed. This meant that women serving our country were subjected to unwanted contacts by strangers who may have been sexual predators.

Marine Commandant Neller has called this a “stain on our Marine Corps,” and it is.

In addition it damages and endangers our female Marines who are risking their lives for our country.

I believe that three steps need to be taken as soon as possible to address this problem.

First, both Republicans and Democrats should voice support for Congress member Speier’s bill, which she introduced today.

This bill will broaden the legal prohibition of displaying and disseminating nude photos without the consent of the female.

Second, the House Armed Services community needs to conduct a hearing as soon as possible to hear from the female victims of Marine United and other webpages. Both the Senate and the House have asked General Neller to testify, but we need Congress to hear from the victims of this scandal. Their voices need to be heard. I represent a number of those victims but none have been invited to testify.

After this press conference today I will go to the office of the Chair of the House Armed Services Committee and deliver a letter to Chairman Congress member Mac Thornberry asking him to allow victims to testify at a public hearing.

Finally, last week I wrote to Marine Commandant Neller urging him to meet in person with the victims who are female United States Marines, (active duty Marines and former Marines) to hear their ideas for constructive solutions to the special challenges that these women face as United States Marines. We know the problems, and they would like to be part of a constructive solution.

Women Marines will no longer accept being sexualized, or silenced. Many of them are daughters or sisters of male marines.

These women Marines have earned our respect and support. It is essential that we take immediate action to support them and change the law, the system and the culture to impose appropriate serious consequences on those who have betrayed their trust.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Victims
of the Marines United Scandal
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