As an alumni body representing Michigan State University’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, we feel compelled to speak out on recent events concerning former MSU physician Larry Nassar’s sexual abuse of dozens of women and girls over decades, as well as the disappointing response of our university’s senior leadership.

With feelings of outrage and shame, the MSU GLBT Alumni Association stands with the victims of Larry Nassar and their families, who endured unthinkable pain and humiliation, yet have courageously stepped forward to demand accountability and change within the organizations that failed them, including MSU.

We add our voices to the MSU students, faculty, and staff who are working to ensure fair, compassionate treatment of Larry Nassar’s victims. We support their efforts to safeguard the rights of those who have suffered abuse, harassment and intimidation, and to ensure they are heard, believed and cared for.

We commend the strong reporting of our student newspaper, The State News, whose journalists have worked tirelessly to shine a light on MSU’s lack of accountability and tone-deaf response to Larry Nasser’s victims.

We encourage the MSU Alumni Association to address directly and openly its members’ concerns about campus climate, student safety and leaders’ accountability, and to demand a commitment to inclusion, compassion, and justice from MSU’s leaders. We encourage our fellow alumni groups to do the same.

Finally, the GLBT Alumni Association’s Governing Board adds its voice to the students, faculty, and community members insisting that the process for selecting the next president of MSU includes and honors the diverse voices of the community, including those historically marginalized and excluded from the decision to appoint John Engler as interim president.

This board does not take lightly the decision to take a public stand on a polarizing issue. Many of us recall an earlier era, when senior administrators ignored or dismissed GLBT Spartans’ concerns about harassment, safety, and campus climate. We feel that to say nothing implies consent or neutrality. Thus, we call on all GLBT and allied alumni, students, faculty and staff to become and remain engaged on these issues, recognizing that our community brings a unique history of confronting systemic oppression within the university over several decades and administrations.
About the GLBT Alumni of Michigan State University

Founded in 2005, the GLBT Alumni Association of Michigan State University works to promote the interests of its members and MSU by fostering opportunities among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender alumni and friends to support each other and the university academically, professionally, socially, financially and politically. For more information, email glbtalum@msu.edu.