



The past few months have been quite interesting in the gymnastics community. The world in which we live is so subject to change and we must continue to brace and prepare ourselves for the dynamic nature of our environment. I have been truly impressed by how the gymnastics community rallies when needed.

In Texas, state legislators were targeting childcare facility licensing with certain legislative bills; however the interpretation of the proposed legislation could have had a dramatic effect on the nature of the gymnastics business in the state. Led by USA Gymnastics Women's State Chair Diane Callison, a full-fledged effort was made to understand the legislation and work with elected officials to propose amendments that would protect our interests in Texas. Diane made multiple trips to Austin and was tireless in her management of this issue, which in the end proved very beneficial. Eventually, Senate Bill 68 was passed in the House with amendments that clarified the specific nature of the legislation, protected sport specific activities, and created an advisory committee to help interpret the proper administration of childcare licensing. Diane will serve on this committee, and it is "on the record" that the legislation is not intended to have adverse consequences on the gymnastics community. As of press time, SB 68 is going to a joint committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions, and we are still tracking this process.

We also continue to monitor collegiate gymnastics' status, which given the current state of the economy is becoming ever more prone to change. Unfortunately, the number of men's NCAA programs dropped by one when MIT downsized its varsity sport programs by 10 sports, including gymnastics. We remain in contact with MIT regarding options, and we are working with the coach and others to determine the best next steps. On a positive note, the effort to raise money for Cal State Fullerton's women's program proved fruitful as more than \$72,000 was raised to support the continuation of that program. This demonstrates that given just a little time and advance notice, we can have a positive impact on helping our NCAA programs.

Earlier this year, USA Gymnastics hosted a "summit" with key players in the collegiate gymnastics community to discuss future ways to support and promote collegiate gymnastics. USA Gymnastics efforts for collegiate gymnastics has long included hosting national championships for both men and women and collegiate scholarships for male gymnasts. This year, we increased our coverage of collegiate gymnastics on our Web site and in information sent to the media. The recent situation with both MIT and Cal State Fullerton emphasizes the need for the entire gymnastics family to work together to support this important part of the community. We will continue to focus on this initiative and work to create a business plan that provides even greater support to collegiate gymnastics.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped up recently – either to support the legislative effort in Texas or the fundraising campaign for Cal State Fullerton – and again demonstrated what we can achieve together. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer in Dallas (August 12-15) for the USA Gymnastics National Congress and Trade Show and the Visa Championships, as well as continuing to work with you to grow and improve our great sport.

See you in the Gym,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Penny".

Steve Penny
President/CEO