

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon, my name is Douglas Schyck, and I am Michael Schyck's father. My wife Susan has just spoken to you. What I am about to say will be coming from a very proud father.

When God gifted our family with Michael, I was a very young man just finding my way with my profession. As a father, I knew I was going to be a huge part of shaping our new little boy into a solid, productive young man. To accomplish my goals, I knew I would have to set a good example for him along the way. I also knew the importance of building sound character, along with other ingredients like discipline, accountability, empathy, kindness, and strong work ethics. Well, I am here to tell you that my wife and I have done a job we are extremely proud of. Over there sits one of our life's accomplishments and a credit to Ohio State University.

You ask why I am telling you this, that's simple. A big part of my job as a father is to protect my family. I feel I have failed here; I did not see what was going on with Mike at Ohio State University, and I let him down.

Here is where you members can do the right thing and right their ship by voting yes on House Bill 249. To think that this prestigious University neglected so many student-athletes for so long and let this sex offender roam the campus undercover as a Medical Physician for years makes me SICK!!!!

When Mike was being recruited after a storybook High School career, his ambition was to compete in a Division 1 program and at a Big Ten Conference University. The schools were Ohio State, Michigan State, Purdue, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Lehigh, and Clemson. The decision was made, and Mike ultimately decided on OSU because of the new coaches, Russ Hellickson, Jim Jordan, Doug Blubaugh, and Mark Coleman.

From the beginning of recruitment, Mike, along with his mother and I were assured that he would be safe, and the coaching staff and school would be his second home. We now find out that in Mike's very first week at school, he encountered Dr. Strauss for his first athletic physical. To think this man and the University could let this behavior go on boils my skin. If the University had addressed earlier issues and resolved them, we would not be here today, and some 300 plus student-athletes would not be carrying scars from their University experiences. I cannot stress enough the importance of an immediate, "YES VOTE" ON HOUSE BILL 249. I would be appalled if, after all that has surfaced, your member body did not pass this bill at 100% "YES."

During Mike's freshman year, we began to see subtle changes in his demeanor and temperament. Common courtesy issues began to develop. His temperament began to turn. It was suddenly like day turning into night. My wife and I talked frequently and concluded the rigger of his freshman student-athlete setting in was to blame. Knowing now what he had to endure during his tenure at OSU, gives a true picture of why these changes started to appear. Mike gave his heart and soul to the University. The proof of that is in his accomplishments. He was a two-time All-American. His individual career victories record still stands in the all-time top 5. Mike has competed in meets with dislocated fingers, cracked ribs, and all for the status of OSU Wrestling.

The University President and the Board of Trustees have met with these student-athletes. The President is on record stating the University will make it right for those that have been abused by Dr. Strauss. Unfortunately, it appears now that the University is dismissing these complaints under the statute of limitations regarding sexual abuse.

After all that has happened here at Ohio State, I can't stress strongly enough the importance of passing

House Bill 249. Vote "YES" to give these student-athletes justice and make the Ohio State University accountable for such inexcusable behavior. Thank you.