

THE MOLD MEDIC

Michael Rubino

AIR QUALITY EXPERT

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To Honorable Lawmakers in Ohio:

As of this date, I have helped over one thousand people enter back into their homes, after tragic water events. Water events that were often left in disrepair due to the lack of knowledge around the dangers of environmental exposures. There's an industry with roughly 50,000 companies that earn a living by remediating the very thing they know very little about. This puts countless Americans at risk being exposed to environmental contaminants that often accompany water damaged buildings, with such little awareness, that leads to chronic illness. Far too many, do I hear the tale of a family who has gone from doctor to doctor, time and time again, often taking years before they realize that the problem all along was their water damaged home.

A public awareness campaign can go a long way to end suffering once people know what exactly it is that they're suffering from. Because I think we can all agree, we can't fix a problem if we don't know what the cause of the problem is. As it currently stands, the current public information needs to be updated with modern science and data. We now know that quantities make a difference. We now know that mold is a blanket term used to describe over 100,000 species of fungus. We now know that mold is two things (1) a particle and (2) a living organism. We now know that we can control exposures by removing the organism first, and then reducing the particles in the environment. We also know that certain species of molds, especially the ones found in water damaged buildings can produce mycotoxins. Research shows mycotoxins can produce a wide breadth of health issues, including cancers. This is already regulated by the FDA to protect our food supply.

We have seen people get better by following those two simple steps when they are guided to follow them. It was believed once upon a time that mold was ubiquitous therefore it couldn't be mold that caused any health issues. Today we know that it can and that mold is actually not ubiquitous because if you tested outside and then tested a room inside your home you would have very different quantification and species altogether.

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We need the public at large to know the difference between the particle and the organism and what can be done about it. Giving this information allows people to control it whether they are a homeowner, a landlord, or a renter. The right information allows people to take the right action.

The right information needs to include the fact that mold is a hazardous substance following the footsteps of radon, asbestos, lead and formaldehyde. This classification allows people to know and understand that time is of the essence in a water damage scenario and that handling the problem quickly helps with the economics. The longer a homeowner or landlord waits, the more costly and damaging this becomes. Society currently views mold and water damage as "no big deal". It views mold as an unsightly or annoying disturbance accompanying unpleasant odors. It does not largely view it as a health risk because we have not paid enough attention to the data. There are over 180 published medical journals discussing the effects of water damaged buildings that live and die on the internet. These need to be brought to light in a way that people can truly understand.

The largest home study ever done by John Spengler in 1994 shows that 50% of homes had a history of water damage. This is an alarming number and not a rare occurrence. Of those 50% he found that 80% of them had visible mold growth. Construction has largely changed since 1994, building homes tighter with less ventilation making this problem more compounded than before, coupled with the lack of knowledge.

Without awareness we cannot create better building practices, we cannot create better restoration practices, and we cannot create better medical diagnoses and treatments around environmental exposures to water damaged buildings.

Supporting HB 251 is the right option to not only protect the citizens of the great state of Ohio, but to empower them.

Sincerely,



Michael Rubino, CMR

Author of The Mold Medic, An Expert's Guide on Mold Removal
Founder of All American Restoration