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SURVIVORS OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SEXUAL ASSAULT DEMAND SPECIFIC ACTIONS AMID QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORT FINDINGS

*Five Specific Demands Highlight Need to Create Safe Atmosphere to Allow
All Survivors of Dr. Robert Strauss to Come Forward*

COLUMBUS, OH –Survivors of the ongoing sexual assault scandal at The Ohio State University (OSU) raised several troubling questions and called for immediate and responsive actions in the wake of an OSU-commissioned report about the school’s conduct over the course of several decades. Joined by their legal team, the survivors called for a series of five specific actions that OSU must take in order to show meaningful commitment to addressing alarming revelations about the University’s refusal to take action as male students and athletes were sexually abused by an OSU physician for years. The survivors supporting today’s action are part of approximately 60 men seeking to hold OSU accountable through a mass action lawsuit designed to force reforms that will prevent similar systemic abuse in the future.

Steve Snyder-Hill and Ron McDaniel are among the survivors of former OSU doctor Richard Strauss demanding accountability from the school in the wake of revelations that, while employed by OSU, Dr. Strauss abused hundreds and perhaps thousands of male students. While Dr. Strauss committed suicide in 2005, OSU’s administration has yet to fully and accurately account for either the number of students victimized by his predatory behavior or the school’s own role in enabling that conduct for decades.

“As traumatic as it is to relive Dr. Strauss’s abuse this week, I am also traumatized by the dismissive way that OSU continues to treat me and other survivors to this day,” said **assault survivor Steve Snyder-Hill**. “This report still doesn’t tell us how many students Dr. Strauss abused, exactly who in the Athletic Department and the broader administration knew about his abuse, or what OSU is doing to make sure this can never happen again. The school likes to say that this is ‘a different OSU’ but, until it makes clear and accepts responsibility for the full scope of what happened and how, there is no reason to believe that.”

“When I first told my coach about Dr. Strauss almost thirty years ago, I was laughed at and completely ignored. It took decades before I learned that I wasn’t alone,” said **assault survivor Ron McDaniel**. “While I didn’t need this school-commissioned report to know what happened to me all those years ago and how it’s affected my life, I hope it will be the catalyst for Ohio State finally beginning to help survivors like me and

taking responsibility for the harm the school's actions – not just those of Dr. Strauss – have caused.”

In the wake of the report released late last week, the survivors and the legal team supporting their efforts to hold OSU accountable for its inaction have made five specific demands of The Ohio State University:

1. OSU must release records revealing the total number of male students that Dr. Strauss examined during his time at OSU. Given the length and perceived scope of Strauss's abuse, the 177 survivors interviewed for the report is likely only a small portion of those impacted, with the actual number reaching into the hundreds and possibly even a thousand or more.
2. OSU must publicly encourage *all* survivors of Dr. Strauss' abuse to come forward in whatever manner they feel most comfortable, whether publicly or anonymously.
3. OSU must release the names of the coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and other employees and administrators who knew about Strauss's conduct while it was going on and failed to stop it. The report notes that more than 50 members of the OSU Athletics Department “corroborated these student accounts.” The public and the OSU community in particular have a right to know who these individuals are.
4. OSU must release specific information on the other places where Dr. Strauss worked and saw patients. For example, the report references a local middle school, a local high school and a local Diocese in which Strauss treated young men, but it fails to identify any of those institutions.
5. OSU must put forth by June 15 – the date of its first mediation session with the survivors who have come forward – a concrete proposal laying out both how OSU will help provide some measure of justice to the survivors and what reforms it has and will put in place to prevent this from happening again.

“Ohio State wants everyone to believe that the university has changed, but OSU is still mishandling sexual assaults and ignoring and mistreating survivors today,” said **Adele Kimmel, Senior Attorney, Public Justice**. “We are still waiting to hear exactly what OSU will do about the lack of oversight and accountability that enabled such widespread sexual abuse on campus. To ensure that no other students experience these survivors' pain and trauma, OSU needs to provide a gold-standard plan detailing what will be fixed, how it will be fixed and by when.”

“This is one of the biggest sex abuse scandals in U.S. history, yet the report only scratches the surface,” said **Ilann Maazel, Attorney, Emery Celli Brinckerhoff and Abady LLP**. “How many hundreds or thousands of OSU students did Dr. Strauss abuse? What are the names of all the OSU coaches, trainers and administrators who

knew about the abuse and did nothing? What will OSU do to make these survivors whole? It's time for a full reckoning at this university.”

Anyone with information about abuse at OSU or who believes they may be a victim may reach out confidentially by emailing ohiosurvivors@ecbalaw.com or by sharing your contact information [here](#).

[Public Justice](#), [Emery Celli](#) and [Scott Elliot Smith, LPA](#) are working with the survivors to help hold OSU accountable and seek justice for the irreparable harms they suffered while at the school. The case is captioned *Snyder-Hill, et al. v. The Ohio State University*, 18-CV-00736, in federal court in Columbus.

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