

**From:** Steve Snyder-Hill  
**Sent:** Thu, 10 Jun 2021 18:25:09 -0400  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written comment

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I tried to testify, I logged in, had a scheduled time and it kept saying you have been removed from the meeting. So, I will provide my comments in written form:  
Good evening. My name is Steve Snyder-Hill. I'm a retired United States Army Major, having served a combined total of twenty-six years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. I am also one of the many hundreds of survivors of serial sexual abuse perpetrated by Ohio State University physician Richard Strauss.

I was abused by Dr. Strauss in January 1995, during a medical exam at Ohio State's Student Health Services. I filed a complaint about Dr. Strauss's conduct and was told by the Director of Student Health that no other student had ever complained about Strauss before. This was a lie, a kid complained just 2 days before me. I found out that the director knew and told me there were no other complaints. Now to find out that multiple Ohio State officials knew about Strauss's abuse—including supervising and other physicians, at least *fifty* employees in the athletics department, multiple Student Health Directors, and multiple administrators in Student Affairs. Instead of taking action to stop the molestation, Ohio State enabled, facilitated, and concealed it for decades.

I'm testifying today because I don't want anyone else to go through the trauma I've experienced both from the abuse and my university's betrayal. All of this was preventable. And the Department of Education can make sure universities don't fail students in the way Ohio State failed me and countless others. How? By strengthening Title IX protections for survivors and undoing the harmful changes to the Title IX regulations made by the last administration.

After what happened to me it is insulting to find out the changes made in 2020 make it even harder to report sexual assault. Colleges are only required to investigate complaints made

directly to Title IX Coordinators or school officials with that authority, these barriers are horrible to people like me. This “actual knowledge” requirement allows schools to ignore sexual abuse known to other school officials, such as coaches, athletic trainers, professors, medical personnel, or other employees who aren’t high-ranking officials.

Before last year’s rule change, the Department required schools to take action, now they get every excuse to ignore it.

The current rules enable sexual predators to thrive at universities: Even if dozens of employees know about or suspect the sexual abuse, a university would not have to take any action unless the “right” employee actually knows about the alleged abuse. This rule is unconscionable and must be eliminated.

Instead, the Department should require schools to respond to harassment that they know or *should* know about, and *any* sex-based harassment by employees. Students seeking help often turn to the adults they trust the most, I know I did. But I wouldn’t have gone searching for the right person to tell. Thus, the Department should clarify that sexual harassment which any employee knows or *should* know about triggers a school’s responsibilities under Title IX.

Thank you for considering my input.

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Steve Snyder-Hill

(b)(6)

**From:** Steve Snyder-Hill  
**Sent:** Thu, 10 Jun 2021 18:46:36 -0400  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Audio of my testimony  
**Attachments:** Title IX Testimony.mp3

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I am very upset that I was muted. I did not say personally identifiable information. Dr. Strauss is deceased. I am not sure if that was who they thought I was identifying?! But attached is a recording of my testimony, it is extremely important for me that you consider this. This has been a horrible story and someone needs to hear it.

Steve

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Steve Snyder-Hill

(b)(6)