

State rep accused of sexual misconduct sanctioned by Ohio House but not criminally charged

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A teen family member accused an Ohio state representative of inappropriate touching, which prompted a lengthy investigation but no criminal charges.

State Rep. Rodney Creech, R-West Alexandria, said the allegations against him are political. Creech [announced May 12](#) that he will run for a Dayton-area Ohio Senate seat in 2026 to replace Sen. Steve Huffman, R-Tipp City, who is term limited.

The Preble County Republican was first elected to the House in 2020.

"These allegations have been found to be demonstrably false, and I have already begun pursuing legal action against those who are pushing this filth," Creech said in a statement. "Like President Trump, I am no stranger to false media attacks."

What was Rodney Creech accused of?

The teen said Creech touched her inappropriately multiple times and climbed into her bed with an erection, according to records from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. She first told her mother about the incidents in May 2023.

This newspaper does not identify victims of sexual assault without their consent.

Preble County Sheriff Michael Simpson became aware of the allegations two months later but never produced a report or interviewed Creech or the teen, BCI investigators found. Preble County prosecutors declined to file charges after the case was presented to them with no investigation. Simpson admitted to a conflict of interest and said he'd ask another sheriff's office to investigate, but he never did.

"This is an absolute dereliction of duty by a public official," the BCI report stated.

Simpson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Months later, the teen disclosed the allegations to the [Montgomery County CARE House](#) during an interview for an unrelated case, records show. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office alerted Simpson, who requested help from BCI.

Creech denied wrongdoing in a March 2024 interview with BCI agents but admitted that he sometimes got into bed with the teen while wearing only underwear. Creech told investigators that there was nothing sexual about the encounters and that he was never under the covers.

The Clark County prosecutor's office reviewed BCI's investigation after former Preble County Prosecutor Martin Votel requested a special prosecutor. Clark County Prosecutor Daniel P. Driscoll wrote in October 2024 that he found Creech's behavior "concerning and suspicious," but the evidence fell short of the threshold for bringing charges.

Political fallout

The case is causing turmoil in the Ohio House.

House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, stripped Creech of his committee assignments and state Rep. Phil Plummer, R-Dayton, said Creech is threatening to sue him for slander. Plummer told law enforcement that Creech disclosed the allegations and made comments that Plummer found "appalling," according to BCI records.

A spokesperson for Huffman said the House is not conducting its own investigation but declined to comment further.