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People, including survivors, stand together during a rally in support of victims of late financier Jeffrey Epstein, on Capitol Hill Sept. 3. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS FILE

EPSTEIN INVESTIGATION

Seeking justice

SURVIVORS SAY THEY KNOW THE NAMES AND ARE SEARCHING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Erin Mansfield USA TODAY

Lisa Phillips felt sick to her stomach. • She stood on the east side of the U.S. Capitol on a clear fall day as one woman after another described how Jeffrey Epstein sexually abused them. • They were groomed as teenagers and young women under the guise that they would just be providing massages to an older man. They said they were scared of saying anything for years.



Lisa Phillips speaks during a news conference to discuss a bill directing the release of the remaining files related to Jeffrey Epstein. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

Phillips looked down at her phone, then across the way at her friends, then back to her phone. She took deep breaths. She adjusted her shirt, moved her shoulders back, and stood up tall. Finally, she stepped to the podium.

“I stand here today for every woman who has been silenced, exploited and dismissed,” Phillips said. “We are not asking for pity. We are here demanding accountability, and I’m demanding justice.”

Phillips set aside the speech she’d prepared. Instead, she would take back power for herself, the women who spoke before her, and the women who would come after her. They had spent years finding their voices, and this was the first time so many had come together in person.

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“I stand here today for every woman who has been silenced, exploited and dismissed. We are not asking for pity. We are here demanding accountability, and I’m demanding justice.”

Lisa Phillips Jeffrey Epstein accuser

No e-bikes allowed at schools in Shrewsbury

Throttled bikes,scooters banned over safety fears

Jesse Collings
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

SHREWSBURY – The Shrewsbury Public Schools have banned throttled e-bikes and scooters on school campuses due to safety concerns.

Shrewsbury Superintendent Joseph Sawyer announced the ban on Nov. 4, and said it was effective immediately.

“Based on several situations that have happened over the course of this fall where students who were riding motorized e-bikes have been involved in several situations that have been a danger to themselves and others, myself and other school leaders here in the district have become increasingly concerned about the potential for injury or worse,” Sawyer said during a School Committee meeting Nov. 5.

The ban applies to all e-bikes and scooters that are classified as Class 2 e-bikes – or bikes that contain a motor and a throttle that do not require the rider to pedal in order to go forward. Class 1 e-bikes, which do not have a throttle and only assist riders while going up inclines, are still permitted.

Sawyer said he consulted the Shrewsbury Police Department before issuing the ban.

“We have seen information about that happening elsewhere across the commonwealth,” Sawyer said. “Because of the potential for serious injury, because of the speed these motorized bicycles and scooters have, it is difficult for other riders and drivers to see them. Certainly they heighten the risk of accidents.”

In an interview with the Telegram & Gazette, Sawyer said the Northborough-Southborough School District issued a similar ban in September. He also said there have been a number of close calls in Shrewsbury.

“I spoke with our school resource officers and the two middle school principals, and each have expressed concerns about students riding these vehicles unsafely on school property,” Sawyer said. “Recently we had an incident where two students riding e-bikes collided with one another on the side of the road near traffic where parents were dropping off their students. Thankfully there were no injuries, but

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E-bikes on display in Worcester.
ALLAN JUNG/ TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

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