

Statement of Hal Wynne

Drew was my youngest of three sons, born and raised in Alexandria, Va. Drew was very athletic, a good student, and he attracted many friends with his gregarious personality and positive outlook on life.

After high school, Drew pursued a degree in Construction Management at Eastern Kentucky University, one of the few institutions that offered that major.

After completing his studies, Drew moved to Charleston, S.C., and joined his brother Clayton in a specialty coffee and chai tea business. Drew was drawn to the production and facilities management side of the business and thrived in that innovative, entrepreneurial environment.

Later, Drew branched out with an old high school friend and together they began a new coffee venture named Rip Tide Coffee. The Rip Tide Coffee business model was based on the production of cold brewed coffee that was loaded into five-gallon kegs and chilled in small refrigerated units where it could be dispensed on demand through a tap.

Rip Tide Coffee began in Drew's garage with initial production of about 50 gallons a month. Demand soon outpaced production capacity, and with the aid of an investor's seed money, Rip Tide was able to move into a larger industrial facility, which allowed production to grow as new clients were added. From 50 gallons a month, Rip Tide grew to produce 350 gallons a week with more than 50 clients.

Drew developed the expanded brewing process, which included roasting green beans, as well as grinding and brewing the coffee. As with many small business owners and entrepreneurs, Drew took great pride in his company, and he and his business partner were always looking for new products and opportunities to grow the business. This was the happiest point in Drew's life: He co-owned a thriving business with his best friend, had a relationship with a significant other and had money in the bank. He had his whole life ahead of him.

This all came to an end on October 14, 2017. Drew was found dead at the Rip Tide production facility. He had been stripping paint using a Goof Off paint stripper product that is commonly available at home improvement stores around the country. He bought this product at a Lowe's store in Charleston, SC. The active ingredient in that product was methylene chloride. The official cause of death from the Coroner's report was methylene chloride inhalation.

On February 12, 2018 we remembered Drew on what would have been his 32nd birthday.

Statement of Cindy Wynne

Following Drew's memorial service, an article on the front page of the *New York Times* addressed the request to withdraw the proposed rule to ban methylene chloride stating "the product does not present an unreasonable risk." I'm here to tell you that our family suffered an unimaginable loss due to methylene chloride which was present in a popular off-the-shelf DIY paint stripper that killed my son. We later learned that we were not the first family to lose a loved one to these deadly products. Paint strippers containing methylene chloride present a very real and continuing threat to DIY consumers today.

We received hundreds of condolences and overwhelming requests to help us prevent this tragedy from future occurrences. It was then that our family decided to make a difference and perhaps our loss would become Drew's legacy.

Protecting American consumers and workers from dangerous chemicals is at the core of the EPA's mission. The longer proposed rules are delayed, the more consumers and workers will be needlessly exposed to toxic chemicals with well documented risks and fatalities. With this knowledge, family and friends began sending requests to Administrator Pruitt and Dr. Beck at the EPA. These were met with either no reply or auto reply.

We also joined forces with Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Resources Defense Council in order to reach a large audience and work to raise awareness of toxic chemicals being sold to unsuspecting consumers at home improvement retailers. In conjunction with Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, today we are announcing that we have launched a brand new Change.org petition calling for Lowe's, where Drew purchased a Goof Off paint stripper, to stop selling products containing methylene chloride.

To this day, you can walk into Lowe's and buy the same product that killed Drew, as well as many other products that contain the same deadly chemical. It deeply saddens me that Lowe's was warned about this chemical in this product a year ago by Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, and failed to act. This was totally preventable.

How many more people have to die before retailers like Lowe's take action?

We believe that Drew would want us to take action to prevent others from being harmed or killed by the chemical that led to his death.

That's why we have launched this national petition, calling on Lowe's to stop selling paint strippers containing methylene chloride within the next six months.

We are asking Lowe's CEO to do the right thing and ban methylene chloride paint strippers to save lives. One death is too many, and dozens of American families have suffered the loss of loved ones due to these products.

I hope parents and consumers across the country will join us by signing the petition to Lowe's.

Mr. Pruitt and the EPA have fallen short on its duty to protect American families from toxic chemicals under the new chemical safety law. Had the EPA enacted the ban as proposed in 2017, we would be grateful for Drew's life today and our family would be whole.

Borrowing a theme from students and families around the country who have also faced tragic losses and who are voicing a need for change, our family also says....

ENOUGH.