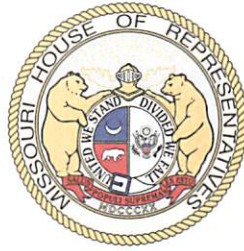


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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jeff Shawan

State Representative
District 153

Andrew E. Newman, Chair
Board of Trustees
Washington University in St Louis

Dear Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Trustees,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding my House Bill 1522, which cleared the General Laws Committee yesterday, soon to be introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Carefully reading, by the third page, I was struck by the discursive nature of your letter and was stunned that the correspondence dismissively ignores what my bill does.

Anyone who cares to actually read my bill will understand that there is no requirement for Washington University to financially "wreck" their prosperous Endowment, acquired over decades by well-meaning, generous donors.

On the contrary, House Bill 1522, offers any institution of higher learning a choice. In fact, it is a binary choice that exposes a little known shameful "corner" of Washington University. It is so rare during this age of confiscatory and regressive tax practices, that one is offered the choice of paying or not paying tax.

I was favorably impressed by the list of worthwhile and benevolent programs that the Washington University Endowment funds and no one wishes for, more than I, that these programs go forward into perpetuity. Good news! This can easily be accomplished.

Carefully reading HB 1522, under Section 146.200, one finds that the only institution of higher education required to pay the tax is one that engages in or "provides medical faculty to any abortion facility"; "offers specific medical fellowships that offer training in performing or inducing abortions"; "supports in any manner any abortion facility where abortions are performed or induced when not necessary to save the life of the mother".

No mention in your letter of this shameful corner of Washington University and what is quite literally the crux of the issue. Why wasn't the actuality of my bill addressed anywhere in that letter?

Shame on Washington University for engaging in the brutal and barbaric practice of killing the very most innocent human beings, who have no voice! In sworn testimony before the House General Laws Committee, Washington University's representative admitted to these practices and under inquiry admitted that fetal tissue research is conducted under the auspices of Washington University.

My esteemed colleague, Representative Nick Schroer, has put questions to your representative, seeking answers to the extent of these practices and our committee is expecting and awaiting a timely response. If answers are not expeditiously answered, then hearings may be convened to find the answers.

The nature of your correspondence to me was so disingenuous, that it causes me to wonder aloud: does your distinguished and altruistic minded Board of Trustees actually know that HB 1522 seeks to end your practice of destroying babies before they are born? Is there not one member of the Board of Trustees that believes in the sanctity of life and existence rights for the unborn? Does your Board know the full extent of research practices that barbarically utilize baby parts for some "high-minded greater purpose"? This purpose that cynically sanctions and by dint of utilizing these parts, encourages and facilitates, even more, the ending of innocent human life to justify that end? Or, was the letter an elaborate game of "three-card monte", designed to obfuscate and distract Board members, donors and other interested parties away from what HB 1522 actually does? I wonder.

I read with interest in your letter and learned about Washington University's "bold, new financial aid program", providing "free" undergraduate education for low-income households. Well, I laud Chancellor Martin's "WashU Pledge", "because it's the right thing to do.", in his words.

Sadly, this program juxtaposed beside WashU's dedication to the destruction of unborn babies is strikingly hypocritical and obviously the wrong thing to do, when one considers that around 50% of abortion victims in Missouri are minorities. Of those, over 40% are African Americans out of a statewide population of less than 12%. It's quite possible that this extreme rate of black baby abortion is approaching genocide. From my perspective, WashU is dedicated to providing free education for low-income students, while systemically and simultaneously, trying to eliminate future low-income students. Is that "the right thing to do"?

The brutality of what is happening to the most innocent is appalling and haunting to anyone with a conscience or spiritual underpinnings. If one does not understand what is happening it is a crime of ignorance. If you, the Board of Washington University, did not understand what has been happening, then now is the time to embrace reality. Below are links to a very brief video and photos that help shed light on just what happens to aborted babies and fetal harvesting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pe9ncoLveD4&t=6s>

<https://www.abortionno.org/abortion-photos/nggallery/thumbnails>

So, allow me to be frank with you Mr. Chairman. HB 1522 is a tax bill, hoping to never collect the tax. In fact, it is designed to be revenue-neutral. Under this bill, should Washington University decide to pay the endowment tax, estimated to be in the range of \$150 million +-, then ordinary citizens in Missouri would enjoy a modest tax decrease to compensate for the collections, which go to General Revenue. Alternatively, Washington University can elect to cease and desist the abortion support practices and not pay any tax on the Endowment, whatsoever. That is the intent of the bill and my personal desire.

Recently, Chancellor Martin scheduled a meeting with my office to discuss this worthwhile bill but then canceled, saying that his schedule would not allow. Busy, though I am, I had made room in my schedule to accommodate the Chancellor. I am open and willing to meet with the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, collectively or individually, or any Endowment supporters to work towards the end of Washington University's destructive practices supporting the abortion industry. Of course, this is subject to schedule availability as we are in the busy season in Jefferson City.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Shawan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Representative Jeff Shawan
District 153