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October 30, 2015

KURT SCHAEFER
19TH DISTRICT

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin
Office of Chancellor
University of Missouri
105 Jesse Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Dear Chancellor Loftin:

It has come to my attention that there is a research study currently taking place at Planned Parenthood's St. Louis facility which the University of Missouri Campus Institutional Review Board approved on April 29, 2015, with the express benefit of helping "Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri improve its services to better meet the needs of women seeking abortions." See attached.

This study purports to "gain a better understanding of the abortion decision-making process," as well as the effects of Missouri's 72-hour waiting period on the decision to have an abortion. The principal investigator is a student at the University of Missouri School of Social Work, and Dr. Marjorie Sable, the Director of the School of Social Work and a board member and Secretary of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, serves as the adviser for the study. However, Planned Parenthood research staff will collect data from over 200 women at the St. Louis facility, and all information produced by the study is to be stored at the St. Louis facility. Additionally, all communications from participants concerning the study are directed to the principal investigator at the St. Louis facility's address.

This is a concerning revelation considering the University's recent troubling connections to Planned Parenthood. According to Section 188.205, RSMo, "[i]t shall be unlawful for any public funds to be expended for the purpose of performing or assisting an abortion, not necessary to save the life of the mother, or for the purpose of encouraging or counseling a woman to have an abortion not necessary to save her life." Identical language also prohibits such activity by public employees and public facilities. See Sections 188.210 and 188.215, RSMo. It is difficult to understand how a research study approved by the University, conducted by a University student, and overseen by the Director of the School of Social Work at the University can be perceived as anything but an expenditure of public funds to aid Planned Parenthood in improving "its services to better meet the needs of women seeking abortions" in clear violation of Missouri law.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin

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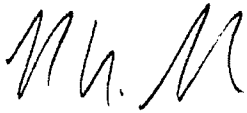
This study does not appear to be designed as an objective, unbiased research project, but rather as a marketing aid for Planned Parenthood—one that is funded, in part or in whole, by taxpayer dollars.

In order for the Committee to determine the extent to which the University of Missouri's public funds, employees, or facilities were or are currently being used in this study, please provide me with copies of:

- the complete research study protocol for IRB project number 200068;
- any communication in the possession of the Institutional Review Board or any other entity, employee, or agent of the University regarding this study; and
- any documents, correspondence, or communications in the possession of the University or its agents or employees regarding any funds used or to be used for this study.

Please provide any documents responsive to this letter no later than 4 p.m. Friday, November 6, 2015, to the Senate Administrator's Office, Room 324 – State Capitol.

Sincerely,



Kurt Schaefer – Chairman
Senate Interim Committee on Sanctity of Life

KS:Imb

C: Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life Members
Senator Ron Richard
House Committee on Ways and Means Chair
House Committee on Children and Family Chair