

**WWAMI MEDICAL EDUCATION**

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February 2, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Horman and Senator Grow:

On January 27, during testimony for the Idaho WWAMI program, I was asked to report back on a specific question from Representative Herndon regarding state resources for courses taught by the University of Washington School of Medicine. The following courses were mentioned in the testimony and in an email from Senator Herndon:

CONJOINT 570 TRANSGENDER PATIENTS
FAMED 550 CRITICAL RACE THEORY
FAMED 561 LGBTQ HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES
OBGYN 628 FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION CARE
OBGYN 638 PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER WASHINGTON AND NORTH IDAHO

On January 30, we contacted Dr. Suzanne Allen, Vice Dean for Academic, Rural and Regional Affairs for the University of Washington School of Medicine to provide information regarding the funding for the above-mentioned courses. On February 2, Dr. Allen responded with the following:

"Funding from the State of Idaho supports the required curriculum for Idaho WWAMI medical students to graduate from UWSOM. The five courses and clerkships asked about are all elective courses and clerkships and [are] not part of the required curriculum".

Each year the University of Idaho sends the following statement along with trustee benefits invoiced from the University of Washington:

In the 2021 Idaho Legislative Session, the Idaho Legislature passed a bill entitled the No Public Funds for Abortion Act. This bill was signed by Governor Brad Little on May 10, 2021 and went into effect on May 10, 2021. Among other things, it created a new criminal statute prohibiting the use of public funds for abortion related activity. This law applies to the electronic payment referenced above. Thus, under Idaho Code § 18-8705(2), you may not use any of these funds to perform or promote abortion, provide counseling in favor of abortion, make referral for abortion, or provide facilities for abortion or for training to provide or perform abortion. "Abortion" is defined in Idaho Code § 18-8702(1) as "the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with knowledge that the termination by those means will, with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the unborn child. Such use, prescription, or means is not an abortion if done with the intent to save the life or preserve the health of the unborn child, remove a dead unborn child caused by spontaneous abortion, or remove an ectopic pregnancy."

Thank you for the opportunity to answer the questions and for the ability to provide evidence that state resources are not spent on the elective courses in question.

Sincerely,

JEFF SEEGMILLER EdD. AT
Regional Dean/ Director, Professor