



August 7, 2006

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

In March of 2006, you may have received, by mail, a survey and a cover letter co-signed by Margaret Chapman, Executive Director of West Virginia Free, and myself. This survey was intended to determine if family physicians in West Virginia were interested in an educational program on the recently approved drug, Mifepristone.

Unfortunately, the cover letter attached to this survey gave recipients the mistaken impression that West Virginia University had endorsed West Virginia Free's agenda. That was not the case and it was an error to sign it and allow distribution of this letter, which caused confusion about the University's position.

I want to assure you that West Virginia University's goal is to provide education for physicians. The University does not advocate for or against the use of this drug, does not recommend nor encourage abortion, and does not have a position on any political debate about the topic. I apologize for the confusion caused by this letter.

Because this drug is approved by the FDA, any physician may prescribe it. Recognizing that fact, and preparing physicians to respond to the presence of this drug in the marketplace, does not mean that the University encourages or promotes abortion. We do not.

Physicians providing healthcare to women need to be able to answer their questions about this drug with factual information. They also need to be prepared to deal with any possible complications or adverse results that patients may experience, whether the drug was prescribed by them or another physician.

The Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University is in the process of reviewing its procedures for co-sponsoring educational programs with external sponsors. These organizations can be very helpful to us in presenting physicians and other health professionals with important new information that can be useful to them in their practices, and benefit their patients. However, we must be vigilant in protecting the University's independence and objectivity in all such presentations.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about our educational programs or other issues regarding West Virginia University. My office telephone number is 304-388-1515.

Sincerely,

*Stephen H. Bush, M.D.*

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