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Senator Jim McCune, WA 2nd Legislative District
416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW
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Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
ATTN: Mike Kreidler, Insurance Commissioner
5000 Capitol Blvd SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

Commissioner Kreidler,

I am very concerned about your attack on another state's legislature from an office representing the whole state of Washington. Your use of inflammatory rhetoric to attack another state's legislative body disregards professional courtesy and muddies the waters of our federal form of governance. Each state is given latitude to make laws concerning their citizens, as long as those laws do not infringe on the people's constitutional rights. In this case, you have what amounts to a philosophical disagreement with lawmakers in a different state, regarding the point at which life begins – Texas law now says it starts when a heartbeat can be detected.

I find it repugnant that you would compare those who disagree with you to the Taliban. This is an absolute disgrace to your office, and to our state. This murderous group of religious extremists kills those of different faiths, and treats women as objects and less than human. If I were to liken you or the Democratic party to power-drunk Nazis, I would rightly be attacked, because I know full well that you and your party are not advocating genocide or totalitarian control of our nation and the world. I think you know just as well that the Texas Legislature is not engaging in the sort of atrocities being committed on a daily basis in Afghanistan.

Your linkage of Texas Republicans to the Taliban is disingenuous, as the legislation was favored by members of both parties. You also have done a disservice to the people of Washington in your attempt to fan the flames of partisanship in this state by condemning the actions of a Legislature 1,800 miles away.

By issuing an official statement through your office likening Texas Republicans to the most odious band of thugs and terrorists on the world stage, you have given us a disturbing insight into your thinking. Comparing pro-life and pro-family Republicans to a group such as the Taliban displays a deep-seated intolerance for those with whom you disagree, and should be regarded as "hate speech." Rhetoric such as this should never be used in speaking about your opposition, especially using taxpayer funded materials or equipment, and coming from an office that is supposed to represent our whole state.

I am calling on you to either release a statement of apology, or step down, as a failure to apologize will demonstrate an inability to serve and represent the people of Washington as a whole.

Respectfully,


State Senator Jim McCune
WA 2nd Legislative District