



ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

The Bill Munday School of Business

February 9, 2017

Representative Shaheen:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the report released by The Texas Association of Business. Before I address your specific request to retract the report, I will offer background and context on the situation.

Students in The Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University regularly conduct directed research projects for a number of external clients. These studies provide a learning opportunity for our MBA students and are conducted as part of contractual relationships with clients, which typically include non-disclosure agreements that prevent the university and its faculty and students from sharing the details of individual projects.

As has been widely reported, one of these projects was an economic impact study for TAB, which concluded in the fall of 2015. This research project — limited in scope and conducted by students — was not intended to be, and should not have been used as, the platform for a political advocacy campaign. However, based on our contractual agreement with TAB, the organization was free to use the research at their discretion and the research is the property of TAB.

St. Edward's has no position on TAB's political agenda. This is in fact reinforced by the terms of the university's contractual agreement with TAB, which states that research provided "should not be interpreted as the official position" of the university, but rather that the research contains "views and opinions" of the student teams based on discussions, observations, and analysis. Recent media coverage has continued to overstate, and even misrepresent, the involvement of St. Edward's University in this research.

St. Edward's has been clear with TAB representatives and members of the media that the university is not in partnership with TAB, or any other political organization, on this issue. The university's role was to provide a learning opportunity for students and our involvement ends there.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and understand the serious misperceptions it has caused, however a specific request to retract the report should be directed to The Texas Association of Business.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schreiber, Ph.D.
Dean, The Bill Munday School of Business