



State Representative Paul C. Jacobs – 118th District

June 2, 2025

Dr. Jerry Kruse, Dean
Southern Illinois
University School of
Medicine
P.O. Box 19621
Springfield, IL 62794-
9624

Dr. Daniel Mahony,
President
Southern Illinois
University System
1400 Douglas Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901

Board of Trustees
Southern Illinois
University
Stone Center
1400 Douglas Drive, MC
6815
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Dean Kruse, President Mahony, and Members of the Board of Trustees,
I write to you today as a duly elected representative of the 118th District of the Illinois General Assembly and a public servant concerned with the integrity, transparency, and constitutionality of admissions practices at one of our state's leading public institutions of higher learning — the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU-SOM).

Recent reporting from *The Daily Wire*¹ raises serious and troubling concerns about the SIU School of Medicine's admissions process. The article alleges that students with higher MCAT scores and academic qualifications are being rejected in favor of applicants from certain racial and ethnic backgrounds, despite the Supreme Court's clear and recent ruling on this very matter.

As you must be aware, in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (2023), the United States Supreme Court ruled that the consideration of race in higher education admissions decisions—commonly referred to as affirmative action—is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Court made clear that race-based admissions policies, even when implemented with the intention of promoting diversity is unconstitutional unless they meet the highest level of judicial scrutiny, which the reported current practices may fail to satisfy.

Given this decision, the claims made in the article, if accurate, suggest that SIU-SOM may be operating in direct conflict with federal constitutional law. As a public university that receives substantial funding from both state and federal taxpayers, SIU has an obligation to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the law.

¹ <https://www.dailywire.com/news/med-school-caught-rejecting-white-and-asian-applicants-with-better-scores-than-minorities-it-accepts>

Therefore, I respectfully request detailed answers to the following:

1. **Does SIU-SOM use race or ethnicity as a factor in its admissions process? If so, in what capacity?**
2. **Has SIU-SOM revised its admissions policies in response to the *Students for Fair Admissions* ruling?**
3. **What measures are being taken to ensure full compliance with the Supreme Court's decision?**
4. **How is transparency being maintained with applicants and the public regarding admissions criteria?**
5. **Will SIU-SOM commit to a full and independent review of its admissions policies, in light of these allegations?**

Illinois taxpayers and prospective students deserve a fair and merit-based admissions system, free from unconstitutional preferences or discrimination of any kind. Furthermore, the reputation and credibility of Southern Illinois University and its School of Medicine depend on adherence to the highest legal and ethical standards.

I look forward to your timely and thorough response to these concerns. Please consider this a formal request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) if necessary to obtain clarity and documentation regarding the matters outlined above.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Jacobs
State Representative – 118th District



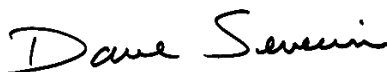
Dale Fowler
State Senator – 59th District



David Friess
State Representative – 115th District



Terri Bryant
State Senator – 58th District



Dave Severin
State Representative – 116th District



Patrick Windhorst
State Representative – 117th District