

STATE CAPITOL
201 W. CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 216
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



(573) 751-3222
WWW.GOVERNOR.MO.GOV

Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

May 20, 2024

Ken Zellers
Commissioner of Administration
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Commissioner Zellers:

I am writing about potential payments from the State Legal Expense Fund (LEF) to cover an adverse judgment against elected officials who falsely accused an American citizen of a heinous act and related it to his immigration status. I am deeply concerned about the liability to taxpayers should this aggrieved individual succeed in his lawsuits.

As Commissioner of Administration, you are responsible for certifying payments from the LEF. Mo. CONST. art. IV, § 28; RSMo § 105.711.5. Under my authority over the Office of Administration within Article IV, Sections 1 and 12 of the Missouri Constitution, I implore you to not certify any payments from the LEF for "payment of any claim or any amount required by any final judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction against" these senators. RSMo § 105.711.2(2); *see also* RSMo § 37.010.4 ("The commissioner of administration shall provide the governor with such assistance in the supervision of the executive branch of state government as the governor requires and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to him or her by the governor or by law."). To that end, Missourians should not be held liable for legal expenses on judgments due to state senators falsely attacking a private citizen on social media.

As Governor, I am tasked with responsibly recommending and spending taxpayer dollars. *See, e.g.,* Mo. CONST. art. IV, §§ 23–27. I cannot justify money spent in this way. Further, I would note that all these accused officials also voted against authorizing expenditures from the LEF, highlighting the fact that they also do not financially support the fund that would be responsible for covering their conduct. Accordingly, you shall not certify any payments from the LEF in this instance without my approval or a court order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson
Governor

cc: Andrew Bailey, Attorney General of Missouri