

DeFriese Denounces Investigation, Calls It 'Indictment by Innuendo'

71-16-71
State Rep. Laban DeFriese said Friday the investigation called for by the state board of education of Chattanooga State Technical Institute "amounts to indictment by innuendo."

DeFriese asserted he will "take every possible step to see that it (the school) is not damaged by such rash action."

DeFriese's statement follows:

"The state board of education has acted hastily and unjustly

in ordering a thorough investigation of Chattanooga State Technical Institute. This fine institution is located within the district I represent and I intend to take every possible step to see that it is not damaged by such rash action.

"The shroud of secrecy surrounding the action of the board amounts to indictment by innuendo. No basis for their decision was given. They must understand that no elected or appointed public servant has the right to take radical action without a complete explanation of the facts.

"I deeply and sincerely regret the reflection this action casts upon the outstanding leadership and staff of CSTI. This institution has earned national recognition for educational excellence and every citizen of the Chattanooga area will resent the sweeping and insensitive move by the state board of education.

"I ask the public and our local officials to join me in demanding that the state board rescind their action or provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for it. No state agency can be permitted to exercise this kind of power over an institution, its leadership, its staff, and its reputation. Every elected and appointed public servant must answer to the people."