# Washington representative's AI transparency bill faces scrutiny due to personal controversy



House Bill 1168, introduced by Washington State Representative Clyde Shavers (D-Oak Harbor), seeks to enhance transparency within artificial intelligence (AI) systems by requiring developers to disclose comprehensive details about the data utilised in training these systems. The objective is to empower consumers and stakeholders with a better understanding of the data that influences AI outputs. This legislative endeavour emerges amidst a backdrop of controversy surrounding Shavers, who has faced allegations regarding the veracity of his military service claims during his campaign.

The bill aims to address concerns about the opaque nature of AI technologies, reflecting a growing demand for accountability and transparency in the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence. Advocates for AI transparency argue that proper disclosure can mitigate the risks associated with data misuse and enhance public trust in these systems.

Despite the well-intentioned nature of this initiative, criticism arises from the juxtaposition of Shavers' legislative focus and his controversial history. During his 2022 campaign for the 10th Legislative District, Shavers asserted that he had served as a nuclear submarine officer in the U.S. Navy. However, his father, Brett Shavers, publicly debunked this assertion, declaring, “Clyde was never a submarine officer, not even for a day.” According to Brett Shavers, his son only completed part of the necessary training for the role and subsequently transitioned to a position in public affairs. This situation has been documented by The Lynnwood Times, which corroborated that Shavers’ claims were misleading.

In light of this revelation, Shavers faced significant public backlash, culminating in the Everett Herald rescinding its endorsement of him, which it had previously granted. The editorial board expressed concerns regarding Shavers' integrity, asserting that his misrepresentations “undermines the trust essential for public service.”

The dissonance between Shavers’ past actions and his current legislative efforts has prompted scrutiny of his credibility. Critics argue that advocating for transparency in AI initiatives is undermined by his history of personal misrepresentation. The irony of a lawmaker with such a background leading efforts to ensure clarity in AI technologies raises questions about the sincerity of his motivations.

Shavers' commitment to a House committee responsible for veterans' issues has also drawn scrutiny, with local editorials calling for him to step down due to the potential for his past actions to interfere with his responsibilities in this vital area.

The implications of House Bill 1168 are significant in the context of AI’s development and deployment within various sectors. However, the credibility of its advocate is crucial in ensuring that the push for transparency is perceived as genuine rather than an attempt to salvage a tarnished public image. For meaningful progress in AI transparency to occur, it is essential that initiatives are championed by individuals whose personal and professional conduct aligns with the principles they seek to legislate.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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10. <https://www.transparencycoalition.ai/news/first-2025-ai-transparency-bills-filed-in-washington-state> - Highlights the significance of the bill in the context of AI’s development and deployment, and the importance of the advocate's credibility.
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