

State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Tim Lanane
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Committees:
Agriculture, RMM
Joint Rules
Judiciary
Local Government
Natural Resources, RMM
Public Policy, RMM
Rules and Legislative Procedure, RMM

11 March 2020

Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

The purpose of this letter is to request further clarification regarding the steps being taken by the State of Indiana to prepare for and combat the potential widespread COVID-19 infection. While your office has been updating the public with general information such as the number of current infections and hotlines to call with questions, I believe the time is upon us for the public to know what specific efforts the state is taking toward containing this virus.

It is imperative all legislators be kept up-to-date on the state's public health plans, as our constituents will be looking to us to help answer questions and alleviate fears.

Testing is key to knowing exactly how many people may have this virus, as well as determining where it may be spreading. Further, it is important we have enough testing kits on hand to provide healthcare providers with adequate information. How many testing kits are on hand currently in our state? Are there enough to meet demand? Furthermore, how are these tests being distributed to hospitals and local health departments?

There are many vulnerable populations in Indiana that I presume your agencies are preparing to address. What plans will be in place to protect these communities, such as those living in nursing homes or senior centers? Some nursing homes in the state have closed access to visitors, but will there be specific guidance from your administration regarding what such centers should do?

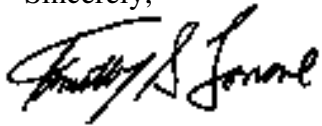
Indianapolis is home to many large conventions and other large gatherings each year. The Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament begins this week, and a number of other sports will host events this spring. Some sporting events and conventions have addressed concerns individually, but will there be a state policy concerning large gatherings, conventions or sporting events?

State government controls many vital operations in Indiana. If state employees are affected by the virus in large numbers, are there contingencies in place to make sure there exists a continuity of state operations while keeping staff safe? If so, when will these protocols be released to staff?

Many schools and businesses have released their own plans to address what is now being declared a global pandemic. However, I believe the state must lead on this issue and provide guidelines so Hoosiers are confident in how Indiana is responding to the crisis. I am eager to review your plans that address these concerns and to work with you to tackle this important public health issue.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy S. Lanane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "L".

Timothy S. Lanane
Minority Leader, Indiana State Senate
State Senator, District 25
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