

Senator Karen Tallian
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Committees:
Appropriations, RMM
Environmental Affairs
Pensions and Labor
Rules and Legislative Procedure
Corrections and Criminal Law

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Ryan Mishler
Indiana State Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Senator Mishler,

In order to ensure Indiana recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic as strongly as possibly, it is critical that the legislature be involved in decisions that will guide our ongoing economic recovery. Part of ensuring a successful comeback will be to ensure the federal stimulus funds are spent where they will be most effective to our businesses and Hoosier residents. As a long-standing member of the State Budget Committee, I support Representative Porter's request in his April 30th letter to Representative Brown (attached) that the Committee review expenditures of Indiana's federal stimulus funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic over a certain threshold. Representative Porter suggested \$10 million, but as he indicates, that figure could be negotiated.

Budget Committee review of the nearly \$4.5 billion in federal stimulus funds would address four problems:

- a lack of transparency and accountability around how this enormous amount of funding will be spent,
- a lack of input by the legislative branch that normally determines how the state's funding is appropriated,
- a lack of representation from either of the Democratic caucuses on the Governor's Economic Relief and Recovery Team, and
- a lack of full diversity on the Governor's Economic Relief and Recovery Team necessary for ensuring the communities most affected by racial disparities in Indiana health care, made even more apparent by COVID-19, receive the resources they need.

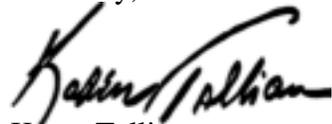
It is further unclear to me whether anyone on the Governor's taskforce will be focused on appropriate compensation and equipment for essential workers and workplace safety, a concern I hear about daily from my constituents.

Senator Ryan Mishler
Page two
May 6, 2020

As elected officials representing Hoosier communities, we owe it to the people in our districts that they receive the resources they need to stay safe while also supporting our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Tallian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Karen Tallian
Indiana State Senator
Senate District 4