

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Cory Noonan
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CLERK
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May 27, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Oelslager and Callendar, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for your consideration of testimony in support of Senate Bill 310.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted county government in numerous ways. The resulting economic slowdown due to the pandemic has greatly impacted dollars coming into counties. The county piggyback sales tax is a vital stream of dollars for county government, and reduced sales activity have led to dramatic reductions in sales tax collections which will directly impact counties' ability to provide key services. Other streams like real estate tax, mobile home tax and interest income have also fallen dramatically. Allen County's Budget Commission projected a \$2.8M reduction due to the COVID-19 Storm. This projected reduction does not include the loss of casino dollars, which in Allen County are earmarked for capital projects.

The federal CARES Act funds are a first step in helping county government get back on its feet. While the funds are currently not eligible for revenue replacement, they can be used for unbudgeted health expenses, payroll expenses for public health and safety employees who are substantially dedicated to mitigating the pandemic, and for grants to small businesses, among others.

It is important that local governments receive these funds quickly so that they can provide the greatest benefit to local communities. The challenges facing local government due to the COVID-19 are considerable, but SB 310 is a good step in providing relief to several of those challenges. We encourage the House Finance Committee to move swiftly on this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and we respectfully request your support

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Noonan", is written over the typed name and title.

Cory Noonan
Allen County Commissioner