



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2020

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The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Governor Evers:

We write to seek greater clarity on Wisconsin's use of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) resources. As members of Congress, we have the important responsibility of shaping the federal response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We take this responsibility seriously, and we rely on clear data and dialogue with partners across all levels of government in order to carry out our duties to the benefit of all Wisconsinites.

We have supported legislation to provide trillions of dollars of aid to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. It is our intention that this aid be used to address the needs of the public now, when Wisconsin families need it most. Delaying the use of these dollars for state budgetary purposes or diverting the funding to address unrelated state spending should not take precedence over the very real needs our state is experiencing right now.

After reviewing your August 3, 2020 response to Rep. Steil's letter we still have unanswered questions. Since you issued your response, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau¹ published an additional report on August 11, 2020, suggesting that the state has obligated \$36.3 million of the remaining unobligated total. This leaves more than \$200 million unobligated. As we work to evaluate unmet funding needs, we ask that you address the following:

- The Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG)² report clearly differs from the memo published by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau³ on June 18, 2020, referenced by Rep. Steil in his letter, in that the former analyzes funds *spent* during the report window while the latter describes funds *obligated*. Your letter correctly notes that:

[...] the [OIG] report does not reflect funds that have been committed through programming and expenditures announced but not yet fully implemented, orders placed for which invoices are not yet received, or reimbursements to local governments

¹ Legislative Fiscal Bureau, "Coronavirus Relief Monies Under the Federal CARES Act," http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/misc/122_coronavirus_relief_fund_monies_under_the_federal_cares_act_8_11_20.pdf

² Department of the Treasury – Office of Inspector General, "Interim Report of Costs Incurred by State and Local Recipients through June 30," <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Interim-Report-of-Costs-Incurred-by-State-and-Local-Recipients-through-June-30.pdf>

³ Legislative Fiscal Bureau, "Coronavirus Relief Fund Monies Under the Federal CARES Act," http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/misc/121_coronavirus_relief_fund_monies_under_the_federal_cares_act_6_18_20.pdf

who have not yet submitted their expenses. Additional funds had been obligated at the time of the submission of the report and additional funds are being incurred by the state on weekly basis.

We ask that you provide a detailed accounting of funds that have been *obligated* and funds that have been *spent*. This should include data on "orders placed for which invoices are not yet received" and "reimbursements to local governments who have not yet submitted their expenses."

- Please explain how Wisconsin plans to prioritize programs and grantees as it *obligates* the remaining CRF funds.
- We understand that local governments that were allocated funding began to submit reimbursement requests between July 1 and July 15. Please provide an update on the Department of Administration's (DOA) findings as it analyzes the first round of reimbursements to local governments.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this issue further. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



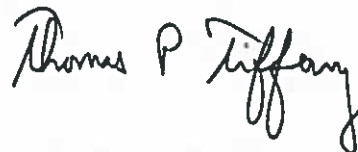
Bryan Steil



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