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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VANESSA GUERRA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Matt Hall
Chairman
Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic
N-997 Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to our attention that a number of requests for information and documents, as well as requests for written responses to “clarifying” and/or “follow-up” questions, have been sent to various state departments and administration officials in the name of the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic. You and Vice Chair Nesbitt have both made reference to these requests in recent Committee meetings and copies of some such requests, bearing your signature, have been provided to Democratic members of the Committee by the administration. The Committee neither approved nor did its members receive notice of these requests. In fact, none of these requests were even discussed in Committee prior to being sent. This course of conduct is, to put it mildly, concerning and disappointing. It is not at all indicative of the bipartisan, fact-based approach to oversight that is necessary to meet the extraordinary challenge posed by COVID-19 and that the undersigned members have been advocating since before the Committee first met.

It is essential that all Committee members—Republicans and Democrats alike—have timely access to any and all information requested in furtherance of the task assigned to the Committee by HCR 20 and that may be used as part of the record forming the factual basis for the Committee’s report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature. As such, we are writing to request that the following actions be taken:

- (1) Copies of all requests for information and/or documents, as well as any requests for written responses to questions, sent to any state department or individual since the creation of the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as any responses received to such requests, be provided to all Committee members by Friday, September 11, 2020;
- (2) For the duration of the Committee’s work, the full Committee be consulted on the recipients and scope of any such requests. At a minimum, copies of all future requests of this nature and any responses be provided to all Committee members at the time they are sent to any state department or individual;

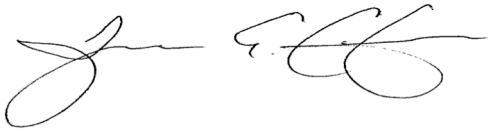
- (3) All members of the Committee be provided with a draft copy of any report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Legislature a minimum of one week prior to any Committee vote to approve such report.

We further request that you provide all Committee members assurance during the Committee's next meeting that the aforementioned actions will be taken as requested or, if not, an explanation of why the requested information is being withheld from Committee members.

Sincerely,



State Representative Vanessa Guerra
Minority Vice Chair
Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic



State Representative Tyrone Carter
Member
Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic



State Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr.
Member
Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic



Adam J. Hollier
Member
Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic

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