

STATEMENT ON FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDING
July 17, 2020

Governor Tom Wolf's admittance yesterday of withholding Federal CARES funding from Lebanon County is the epitome of political retribution.

The Governor's presumption of what Lebanon County Commissioners did with their May 15 resolution is absolutely wrong. The Commissioners' resolution only applied to county-run facilities. As such, moving to yellow was actually meaningless, as local governments were exempt even under the governor's draconian stay-at-home orders. The resolution included no directives for businesses, and in fact clearly stated the businesses were still subject to limitations at the civil and state level.

House Bill 2510, as signed by the Governor on May 29 as Act 24 of 2020, created the \$625 million COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant program. Section 130-C of Act 24 clearly lays out the requirements and formula for a determination of a county's share of that funding, and does not authorize the executive branch to add additional requirements.

According to the Governor's logic, 66 counties - including those experiencing massive protests over the last month in which Wolf personally participated - are entitled to Federal CARES relief, but one county where businesses weren't told to open by county commissioners is being punished.

After childishly calling us cowards and deserters, and accusing us of surrendering and being selfish and unsafe, this latest admission by the governor comes as no surprise. We believe this to be a discretionary act with improper motive. A discretionary act with improper motive is a definition of misbehavior in office, and may be actionable.

The governor is wrong, his motive is improper, and he may be in violation of provisions of the CARES Act and other federal or state laws. This is an incredible insult to the 140,000 people who have chosen to live in Lebanon County, and we are considering every available avenue of recourse to protect our constituents from his petty tyranny.

Senator Dave Arnold
48th Senatorial District

State Representative Russ Diamond
102nd Legislative District

State Representative Frank Ryan
101st Legislative District

State Representative Sue Helm
104th Legislative District



STATEMENT ON FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDING

July 17, 2020

Governor Tom Wolf's admittance yesterday of withholding Federal CARES funding from Lebanon County is the epitome of political retribution.

The Governor's presumption of what Lebanon County Commissioners did with their May 15 resolution is absolutely wrong. The Commissioners' resolution only applied to county-run facilities. As such, moving to yellow was actually meaningless, as local governments were exempt even under the governor's draconian stay-at-home orders. The resolution included no directives for businesses, and in fact clearly stated the businesses were still subject to limitations at the civil and state level.

House Bill 2510, as signed by the Governor on May 29 as Act 24 of 2020, created the \$625 million COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant program. Section 130-C of Act 24 clearly lays out the requirements and formula for a determination of a county's share of that funding, and does not authorize the executive branch to add additional requirements.

According to the Governor's logic, 66 counties - including those experiencing massive protests over the last month in which Wolf personally participated - are entitled to Federal CARES relief, but one county where businesses weren't told to open by county commissioners is being punished.

After childishly calling us cowards and deserters, and accusing us of surrendering and being selfish and unsafe, this latest admission by the governor comes as no surprise. We believe this to be a discretionary act with improper motive. A discretionary act with improper motive is a definition of misbehavior in office, and may be actionable.

The governor is wrong, his motive is improper, and he may be in violation of provisions of the CARES Act and other federal or state laws. This is an incredible insult to the 140,000 people who have chosen to live in Lebanon County, and we are considering every available avenue of recourse to protect our constituents from his petty tyranny.

Handwritten signature of Senator Dave Arnold in black ink.

Senator Dave Arnold
48th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of State Representative Russ Diamond in blue ink.

State Representative Russ Diamond
102nd Legislative District

Handwritten signature of State Representative Frank Ryan in black ink.

State Representative Frank Ryan
101st Legislative District

Handwritten signature of State Representative Sue Helm in blue ink.

State Representative Sue Helm
104th Legislative District

