



# Bosma makes ethics judgment call

Speaker will seek more financial disclosure, backs prescribed meth ingredients, a new education funding formula

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – While House Speaker Brian Bosma is calling for expanded financial disclosure rules in the wake of the conflict of interest surrounding State Rep. Eric Turner, he had a blunt message for all legislators during a Howey Politics Indiana interview on Monday.

“Everyone has conflicts,” Bosma said. “That comes with both a parttime and fulltime legislature. We have to have elected officials

to have the good judgment about when they should not be involved in a decision. We rely on good judgment with that regard. We apparently need to institutionalize some good judgment as well.”

Bosma continued, “A legislator with a substantial and personal interest in a matter shouldn’t be involved in public or private advocacy at the General Assembly on



House Speaker Brian Bosma discusses ethics, education and budget priorities when he met with HPI on Monday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

that matter. Just not voting on it isn’t enough. If you’re not voting behind the scene in a reduction of a license or a change in school standards for teachers that results in a substantial profit to you personally in a business deal, run

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## Pre-K and accountability

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT – We may never know the reasons why Gov. Mike Pence pulled the plug on an application for \$80 million in funding.

What we do know is that Indiana and one other state were reportedly positioned to receive the funding for pre-kindergarten programs in the state. It may not go down as a political setback for Pence or the Indiana General Assembly, but it certainly will go down as a setback for education.

There’s been great debate in this country about how we all need to get children prepared to learn when they enter school for the first time. But this latest set-



**“Liberal media bias is alive and well in Indiana. But I still have confidence in my voters, many of whom like the media less than I do.”**

*- State Sen. Mike Delph, tweeting after refusing to talk to WTHR-TV*



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back for pre-kindergarten funding in the state is like what Mark Twain once said about the weather: "Everybody always talks about it, but nobody ever does anything about it."

**We may not** be able to do anything about the weather, but can't somebody do something about pre-kindergarten funding. This is not a Republican-only problem. Both parties can share equally in failing at-risk children at the earliest levels.

I can only speculate that the reason the state took a pass on funding this time is that it may have provided federal funding in the short-term, but would have stuck Indiana with the bill in the long-term picture. If that's the case, then there are those somewhere who are asking whether it's more prudent to invest in children or to invest in more remediation, more prisons, more unemployment funds and more welfare and public assistance programs later.

There's a much-used saying that goes like this: "Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime."

In one respect, the same can be said for pre-kindergarten programs, particularly with regard to reading. Read a story to a child then and they're happy for a day. Teach a child to read and read well and they'll have a lifetime of happiness.

**It may be** somewhat altruistic, but the fact of the matter is that the consensus of educational theory is that children have to learn to read by the third grade. They learn to read by the third grade, but from that point forward, they read to learn. That's why third grade reading scores are such an important numbers game.

It's also important to note that when children go hungry in this country, there is federal money available to feed them. But when children are starved for learning the basics they need, the money isn't there.

This is particularly alarming when you consider the waiting list for Indiana Head Start programs. Since its inception in the mid-1960s, Head Start has helped pre-school at-risk children

be prepared to enter school. But while all children are afforded a chance to go to school, not all at-risk children are afforded a chance to be in Head Start classrooms.

Why is this so alarming?

The answer is that when President Johnson's "Great Society" programs were rolled out as an attack in the "war on poverty," much of the perception then was that the programs would help the poor in the South and in major metropolitan areas. But since then, poverty has steadily inched, despite some fits and starts, higher. That means there are more at-risk children who can use a head start and a Head Start classroom, but not enough commitment from the federal government. Today, Head Start programs are needed as much in places like rural Indiana as anywhere else. Yet the educational focus is on later years when children take standardized tests and schools are graded on various criteria, including graduation rates.

**Lost in this debate** is the whole idea of cause and effect and why American students pale in comparison to those in other industrialized nations. It's sad to say that we probably care more about beating other industrialized countries in the Olympics more than we care about just competing with them in the classroom, but it's probably true.

If state leaders from both parties really want to do something to make 21st Century Hoosier students the best and brightest they can be, fully funding Head Start for all at-risk children at the minimum would go a long way to making this state the state of enlightenment that the Indiana state flag was designed to inspire. That may not fully fund pre-kindergarten programs, but thousands of parents, including me, have already sent their children to pre-schools. For some parents and families, pre-school is a luxury, but for others, it's really a necessity.

Whether anyone will really do anything about it this time remains to be seen. ❖

## Bosma, from page 1

away.”

His remarks on the Turner situation were just part of the conversation centered around the House Republican agenda last week which addressed the biennial budget, education funding, ethics and public safety.

Bosma called for a reworking of the school funding formula after rural and suburban school corporations found per-student funding either static or dropping.

He said he would personally support legal methamphetamine ingredients to be prescribed by doctors.

And he expressed surprise at Gov. Mike Pence’s decision to reject \$80 million in Pre-K funding, saying at one point, “I’m not certain I would have made the same decision. Our team has advocated pre-school funding for a number of sessions.”

In an hour-long conversation with Howey Politics Indiana’s Brian Howey and Matthew Butler, Bosma added that he will make revamping the school funding formula a priority. And he is looking for ways to address the situation where two members of his caucus announced after ballot deadlines that they would run, but not serve if elected.

Bosma’s 2015 session agenda is one of more than 10 he has initiated over the years. “When you look at the last decade’s worth of agenda, it has now become a list of accomplishments,” Bosma said from his Monument Circle law offices. “We’ve announced what we were going to do and in great part, accomplished it. Sometimes we had to take a couple of shots at it, or three. Whether it was school choice for low-income families, right to work, some of our tax policies, people come to expect it.

Bosma explained, “I used (Gen.) Norman Schwartzkopf’s admonition, “Pick out only the most important things, put them on paper and no matter what else happens, see to it those things are accomplished. It’s a nice roadmap for us at the beginning of the session. We are going to do things out of the ordinary.”

Here is our interview with Bosma as he enters his seventh session as speaker:

**HPI:** In developing the list, do you touch base with Gov. Pence and Senate President Long?

**Bosma:** It usually happens a week after the session. I look at staff and say, “Now we have to start working on next session’s agenda.” They are always polite, but I’m sure eyes roll and they say, “The Boss is on it again.” I literally start thinking about it just as soon as the General Assembly ends. I consider what’s next. We’ve got through a variety of iterations on how we get there. We’ve had a dozen of these under our belt. It usually starts with our staff. They are policy oriented. We talk about what the big issues are, what the big problems are. We start with problems, and then we start working on solutions or policies. We vet both the problems and the proposed solutions with

our leadership team and hone the list down. My team knows I don’t like more than five. Sometimes it’s been three. We always send a short questionnaire to our caucus members during the summer and I ask them what the three biggest issues are for the General Assembly, and the three biggest ones for them personally. Eventually we’ll take it to caucus. The caucus will see it and have the opportunity to comment on it. We usually see recurring themes, whether it’s right to work, budget issues, tax policy; employment has been a huge one over the past five years. This year, some of the public safety issues have hit the screen in a big way. The infant mortality issue, the domestic violence issue, the traditional safety of police officers and citizens; these issues are important to Hoosiers and to our elected members

as well. After all of that happens, we put it together. About the time we’re settled, but before we announce, I have a conversation with the president of the Senate and the governor. Frankly we’ve had two or three meetings over the summer talking about what issues are important in our viewpoints, just to be sure that we’re relatively consistent. That doesn’t stop us; when the prior governor said, “Hell no,” we went forward anyway. Generally because our teams are somewhat consistent, we all seem to be on the same page. None of these issues shocked either the Senate leadership or the governor. We had a big leadership discussion about it two or three weeks ago.

**HPI:** Your agenda doesn’t list taxes, and yet Gov. Pence at his tax conference was talking about tax simplification.

**Bosma:** You’ve seen our time line that we’ve put together during the last tax debate, and it’s 14 tax cuts



in 15 years, or it might be 15 tax cuts in the last 14 years that we've championed and enacted. I personally think it's time to take a breath and let the tax dust settle to make sure we're on the right track. If someone has a great idea, something that will create jobs, which is what most of our tax incentives have been focused on, and doesn't unduly burden government services, we're all ears. On the tax simplification issue, my state tax return is something like 12 to 13 pages, which is ridiculous.

**HPI:** So we may see some tax simplification?

**Bosma:** We would and if I could fill out a postcard and mail in a check, I'm for that.

**HPI:** Your agenda focuses on ethics. The overall trend is that 20 percent of General Assembly members have been chosen via caucus over a direct ballot. Are you concerned about this trend?

**Bosma:** Yes I am. We've had discussions about special elections as they are conducted in some states. We're looking at how replacements are selected in other states and I think we'll find some are chosen via special elections. The concern there is the cost and the burden on local units of governments. But we are taking a hard look at the policy.

**HPI:** An average legislative special election might cost, what? \$50,000?

**Bosma:** I wouldn't rule it out.

**HPI:** And having the resigning officeholder pay for it, or have his or her political committee pay for it? In that scenario, you'd have to think long and hard about not fulfilling your commitment to the voters who elected you. When you're voted into office, that should be a covenant between you and your constituents.

**Bosma:** Right.

**HPI:** Putting the burden on the departing member for a career move, and I think it's one thing if you're incapacitated like Dennie Oxley Sr., as opposed to a case like Eric Turner who lands another job.

**Bosma:** I don't know if a financial penalty or expenditure on an outgoing person is a remedy. There'd be a lot of folks who wouldn't be able to pay for something like that, some could with a political action committee. And it depends on the circumstances. We don't make private parties pay for elections in any other circumstance, but some other financial disincentive with respect to salary might be appropriate. We're looking at those options, though we haven't gotten overly deep in it.

**HPI:** Maybe the answer is the candidate who finishes second gets the seat.

**Bosma:** That would be another possibility.

**HPI:** That would probably have a more negative impact on the Republicans, particularly where you stand now.

**Bosma:** The person picked by voters in one party would be replaced by the person who lost in the other party, so I'm not sure that's a solution. There may not be a perfect solution here, but we are going to search for the proper solution. One might be to extend the date an indi-

## Bosma seeks details in Pence pre-K rejection

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - House Speaker Brian Bosma told Howey Politics Indiana he might not have come to the same conclusions Gov. Mike Pence made on rejecting \$80 million in federal pre-K funds. "I was a little surprised," Bosma said during an HPI interview on Monday. "Before



I'm critical of it, I want to know the details of the federal strings, that's what the governor cited. I understand that concern. I'm not certain I would have made the same decision."

Last week, Gov. Mike Pence made the decision to reject the federal funds

last week. He reiterated that stance on Monday when the U.S. Department of Education extended the deadline for application until today. "While I respect the views of those who support applying for federal pre-k funding, I stand by my decision," Pence said. "Federal funding does not guarantee success. This is not about the money, it's about our children and we have an obligation to get it right. Our administration will remain focused on the successful launch of the five-county pre-K pilot program approved by the Indiana General Assembly earlier this year."

While Pence has characterized the funds as a potential "federal intrusion," he has not identified specifics of what he would consider invasive. Pence was lauded by conservative groups like The Federalist, with Joy Pullman writing, "Pence may have gotten private satisfaction from spurning Indiana's state superintendent in the process, given that she's the only statewide elected Democrat, utterly spastic, and a constant thorn in his side. Her department prepared the federal grant application."

**Bosma told HPI,** "Our team has advocated pre-school funding for a number of sessions. We were successful in passing the pilot program this past session." Bosma acknowledged pre-K funding beyond the pilot program wasn't on the agenda, explaining, "It wasn't a part of our agenda this year because I pledged to certain leaders in the Senate that if they would remove their objection, we would do an honest pilot before I came back advocating for further expansions. I don't know if that played into the governor's thinking process. Eighty million is quite a boost to a pilot program."

Noting that the federal funds would have quadrupled funding of the pilot program, Bosma responded, "Yes it would. So again, I don't know the details. If you take that money and you have to do certain things with it, that was their concern. I haven't had a conversation about it."

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vidual can be placed on the ballot. That currently is July 15.

**HPI:** Sept. 15?

**Bosma:** The only way you can get off the ballot is if you are convicted of a felony, die, or move. We're having a great deal of difficulty doing the latter two. That involves extending that deadline to a place where absentee ballots can be prepared, distributed and early voting can be conducted. July 15 is a vestige of a day when you had to send a piece of paper to a printer and have the ballot prepared to be on the voting machine. Technology has addressed a lot of those issues, especially the deadline for replacing someone on the ballot for a November election. If that were the case, we could deal with both the current situations we have.

**HPI:** Is there something you'd like to communicate to members of the General Assembly on that covenant between voters and their electing constituents?

**Bosma:** I concur with what you said, when you're elected, it's a covenant to serve. Now life circumstances can intervene, and that's understandable, but we need to determine some general rules on what life circumstances are appropriate and what are not appropriate for indicating you're not serving, especially before the election. That one has caught my attention. We've had a number of people who have said shortly after an election, "Hey. I'm not going to serve out my term. I can't recall when we've had two people indicate that shortly before an election. It makes me uncomfortable.

**HPI:** I don't recall this many people leaving in a cycle.

**Bosma:** I cannot recall having two circumstances like this. I've pledged to the other leaders this will be a bipartisan effort. We're not looking for some partisan advantage. It's an institutional reform issue. Our team has had a strong record when it comes to institutional reform efforts, including webcasting all our proceedings, including committee meetings and repealing life-time health care for legislators in 2006. I did that administratively and then we made that an agenda and campaign issue in 2006. We have a long history of trying to move the institution with transparency and openness. We're going to continue with ethics reform and increasing our financial disclosure and addressing some of our shortcomings illustrated by the recent events. We have some ethic disclosure forms that

are pretty blank. No one follows up on that if you make a mistake. Did you forget to fill this out? I'm actually shopping the idea that I have received through discussions with other leaders in other general assemblies, establishing a non-partisan ethics adviser for the General Assembly. It might not be a fulltime position, but an attorney in Legislative Services that could render official and unofficial opinions to members as they are ready to embark on something. It would be in addition to the ethics committees in both chambers, who could make inquiries when needed and give advice where desired. Right now that is in the hands of the elected leaders, which is OK, but it would seem to me that an independent person, just as we have the inspector general now, which was a House Republican agenda item in 2005. Have an individual charged with this. That's missing right now, that independent voice. I've spoken about this with Sen. Long and Rep. (Greg) Steuerwald. I'll speak with the other leaders shortly.

**HPI:** Are you satisfied how the inspector general is operating? There has been some concern expressed that he's not responsive to updating investigations.

**Bosma:** It's a pretty small staff. I think it's still Dave Thomas and he has one other lawyer and a couple of investigators. I think the record has been strong. I can't give any answers to response to the news media. If there's some changes we need to make, I'd be open to that.

**HPI:** Obviously you made a decision with Rep. Turner. It seemed to me over the years you two had been close ...

**Bosma:** He had been part of my leadership team.

**HPI:** Were you disappointed in how he operated? Was it the sale of his company and the profits that just put this on another level?

**Bosma:** I was uncomfortable with even the minimal involvement with Rep. Turner during the session. I expressed that both to Rep. Turner and to our caucus. At one time, I asked him not to speak on the matter again in a private meeting. So yeah, I was uncomfortable during the session. I didn't know his involvement directly changed anything, in fact. But his private advocacy should not have occurred from a judgment standpoint during the session. When the magnitude of the sale was announced,

honestly, I think that caught everyone off guard. It caused me to make a personal decision, which I didn't intend to announce until after Organization Day when I would make appointments. But it was clear that the issue wasn't going away from his opponent, so we just decided to go ahead and make the announcement in advance. And, we need to institutionalize some good judgment on this. We're already talking. Steuerwald and Kersey are having a hearing today on ethics reform. We are having a national NCSL

expert come in to give us the state of the art on what's going on in other states. I've been toying with some phrases and some changes to our rules. They will be subject to debate by leaders and everyone who has to live by them. Everyone has conflicts. That comes with both a parttime and fulltime legislature. I've talked with folks in Illinois in a fulltime legislature who are selling real estate three days a week. This is just a fact for legislatures around the country. We have to have elected officials to have the good judgment about when they should not be involved in a decision.

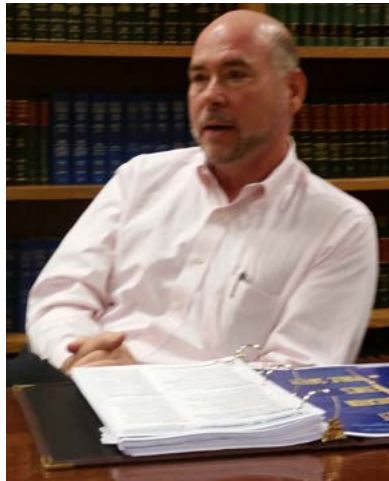
We rely on good judgment with that regard. We apparently need to institutionalize some good judgment as well. A legislator with a substantial and personal interest in a matter shouldn't be involved in public or private advocacy at the General Assembly on that matter. Just not voting on it isn't enough. If you're not voting behind the scene in a reduction of a license or a change in school standards for teachers that results in a substantial profit to you personally in a business deal, run away. That's my reaction. We need to institutionalize that to those who don't have the same knee-jerk reaction to it.

**HPI:** There are always ways around disclosure forms. But what if a legislator is trying to benefit a spouse or a daughter, and it's not disclosed.

**Bosma:** You will see some proposed revisions in disclosure forms coming that will expand familial interests as well. Now there's a point for an emancipated child and a business interest, but how far do you go in disclosing cousins and brothers? Disclosing is one thing. Involvement in decisions that directly impact a family business even if you're not an owner of it, again this is something we should not be involved in publicly or privately. So you will see some additional family relationship disclosures on our forms as well.

**HPI:** Your agenda addresses public safety. We've had four Hoosier police officers murdered this past year. One of the most jarring statistics I've seen via the state police is 100 police officers injured in some connection with methamphetamine labs. Several hundred children on meth lab premises, a couple of dozen children injured – those are scary numbers.

**Bosma:** Yes.



**HPI:** Let's talk about police officer safety.

**Bosma:** I think the drug trade, the police officer deaths, and drugs in many cases, are entirely interrelated. That's what I hear from police officials I deal with. At least in Central Indiana, many of the home invasions and police officer shootings have been directly related to the heroin trade. Much of the violence on our urban streets now and in suburban streets is directly related to the heroin trade. Substitute urban and suburban for rural, and it's the meth trade. So this is a significant public safety issue for Hoosiers, not just police officers, but certainly for police officers. We have significantly increased through HEA 1006 the penalties on sales of these substances. I've heard a few criticisms from some sectors that they aren't stiff enough, or that we've inadvertently reduced some. We'll take a hard look in this coming session to make sure we throw the book at them for community crimes and community corrections for the less serious. The second item is, we need to fund the community portion of that corrections bill. Local government has a very deep concern whether it's the sheriff, prosecutor, mayor or county council that is going to be left with this community corrections

tab which comes with 1006 without adequate funding. We acknowledge that funding obligation is the state's. I acknowledge it. I have heard in a number of public and private venues the tab on that is going to probably \$10 million. That's a budget priority for House Republicans, to do that in responsible fashion. But more is needed if there are additional penalty enhancements required, if there are additional resources the state can provide to local units. These are all going to be looked at. The door is wide open for public safety officials.

**HPI:** We spoke with Rep. McNamara and others and it seems like the caucus is divided on how to deal with meth. Do you see that coming back up?

**Bosma:** That's not just our caucus divided. That's America. So we have Republicans and Democrats in both chambers on both sides of this issue. Personally, even though our family has allergies, but not me, and Sudafed is a part of daily life, I am a fan of making it a prescription. I know that presents difficulties. But with the smurfing epidemic of paying a couple of people to hit a couple of drug stores, it's very difficult to handle the mechanisms of what we've put together. For it to be a prescription-only item, I'm OK with that. Unfortunately I'm not the benevolent dictator of Indiana although I volunteered for that position a couple of times. It's a public policy issue we'll have to work through but I'll vote for a prescription.

**HPI:** Since we're on the topic, prescription drugs illegally used is the top drug problem.

**Bosma:** I think you're right.

**HPI:** Legal episodes are causing many overdoses.

**Bosma:** Right. I don't have a program on the table to control this, but folks who are smarter than me,

if they have ideas on this, we've got to address the issue. Whether it's through a registry for scheduled drugs, perhaps that needs to be expanded. We need to put some brain power on this. We're all ears.

**HPI:** When I traveled with the governor a couple of weeks ago, at just about every small town and rural community, he was pressed for more education funding. Is that a priority?

**Bosma:** It absolutely is. So we have three elements to the primary education program. The first is public education funding is a budget priority. That's not the first time that's been the case. It is our No. 1 strategic investment area. Last session we appropriated a record amount of public school funding, \$15 billion for the biennium. It was a 2% increase in year one, an additional 1% in years two and three. It is my hope is we can do better than that. My hope is to do 2% and 2%. That will be, of course, subject to the December forecast, and if that is abysmal it would be more conservative. If it's healthy, that's a very doable goal. No. 2, we have to again examine how we distribute that funding and essentially fix the funding formula. As a vestige of the years when others were in control, and I'm not talking just Democrats, we grew the disparity between schools that have dramatically lost students and those who have either remained stable or increased the number of students. This is a total generalization, but generally in inner cities, you've had a dramatic loss of students but increased funding per student every year. In rural areas we've had static numbers of students and static funding. They've lost funding power over the years as costs have risen and their per-student funding has stayed the same. In suburban schools, where per-student funding has decreased, the number of students has increased dramatically. So we have to address this. We've got to have a healthy discussion about the distribution of school funds. We're going to fix the funding formula to decrease the disparity, to give suburban and rural schools especially resources they need. How do you do that? You increase the foundational funding substantially. And then we closely examine the complexity index, which is essentially given schools with a larger challenge because of the economic and social status of kinds for funding. I'm not saying we're going to end that, but the disparity between the high and the low which is Hamilton Southeastern and the Gary schools is \$5,500 and \$9,500. It's \$4,000 for every student. There's something wrong with that picture and we've got to take a hard look at it.

**HPI:** You've talked about incentivizing school consolidation. Where are you at on that?

**Bosma:** I'm looking at a report from 1971, but it's a plan for revitalizing schools. It was from the Ristine/Wells Commission which is the two generations ago version of Kernan/Shepard. Both came to the same conclusion. We have school corporations with 30,000 students, and we have those with 500 students with superintendents and purchasing agents. We have counties like Randolph with 25,000 people and five school corporations. That's

25,000 people, not 25,000 students. Forced consolidation is difficult. People don't want to lose their local schools but if we can give incentives, like that we created in 2006, the ability to voluntarily consolidate. In Parke County, Turkey Run and a second corporation consolidated voluntarily. We need to give school corporations an incentive to do this. Whether it's in the funding formula or research and planning funds, so it doesn't have to come out of their general fund budget. We have to find a way the local community will accept. We're somewhere between 57% and 63% in getting that money to the classroom. That's teachers, supplies and computers. We've just got to make some headway on that. We're looking at options of mandates and incentives. Every dollar you save in administrative cost can go to teachers and the classroom, and to set an example we are advocating a teachers' supplies tax credit for public schools. It's not a gimmick. It's saying the state is willing to put some additional skin in the game. If the state is willing to give an additional \$200 tax credit to 50,000 practicing public school teachers, that's \$10 million. That figure was a bit of a gasp to some well-known fiscal folks, so maybe that's not the number, but that's the order of the number I'm willing to invest on teachers and getting money to the classroom. That's state money going to the classroom.

**HPI:** Will there be redistricting commission legislation? I know you're more interested in that than the Senate leadership.

**Bosma:** That's a safe assumption. We've passed it several times. I've been the co-author; advocated it with (Rep.) Jerry Torr. I believe it's the way to put the political parties on even keel for the future. I've been on both sides of this. It's going to have to have leadership in both chambers who think it's appropriate. Ultimately it would have to go through a constitutional amendment, possibly of some sort. It's a long process. It's my hope we can make it a reality by 2020. I'm sure a bill will be introduced.

**HPI:** Do you see some local governments running ahead of the pre-K pilot program?

**Bosma:** No. I think they reacted to our pilot program. We first advocated this two years ago and Mayor Ballard's program is very similar. It required a private sector match and I'm very happy he's advocated for it and I wish the council would put aside its differences.

**HPI:** Anything else we need to know on the budget?

**Bosma:** The naysayers say the forecast is going to be bad. I don't think it will. We have a long list of positive things economically here. The rest of the legislative leadership in the nation wish they were here. I think we're in great position fiscally and economically. ❖

# Fixing school funding formula is complex

By MAUREEN HAYDEN  
CNHI State Reporter

INDIANAPOLIS – Superintendents of high-scoring, high-performing schools have long complained about a convoluted formula that costs them millions of dollars in state funds. Republicans pledge to help, while narrowing the gap between how much flows to those schools and others that don't do as well.

Details have yet to emerge to indicate how the state will change its approach to spending \$6 billion in education money, though any decision likely will depend on revenue estimates due in December.



Lawmakers are discussing proposals such as lifting minimum funding levels for school districts, which would narrow the

\$4,000-per-pupil difference between how much the state's most subsidized schools receive and how much goes to those with the least amount of funding.

Another idea would tie student performance to more than \$1 billion in funds for schools with students in poverty. Whatever the outcome, Republicans say "fixing" the formula is high on their priority list for the legislative session that starts in January. Republicans are expected to keep control of the Statehouse in the upcoming elections.

"This range of 40 percent between the highest- and lowest-funded schools in the state is a big concern," said House and Ways Means Chairman Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville. "People scratch their head and say 'How can this be?'"

**Superintendents** in the state's least-funded districts have tried to answer the question for years, said Zionsville Community Schools Superintendent Scott Robison. He's leading a coalition of about 40 district superintendents in lobbying to change what they call a "broken" formula. Most often parents are the ones who question the disparity, Robison said, and ask why some of the state's wealthiest schools are cutting programs and staff, thus increasing classroom size. The answer is complicated but rooted in the state's takeover of school funding in 2008, while at the same time capping local property taxes that once boosted revenues for affluent districts. Zionsville has since been on the losing end, with other districts like it.

Before the change, Zionsville got about \$5,800 per student from state and local tax revenues each year. Now its allotment is closer to \$4,900, or about \$800 less than the state's average. For Zionsville, that adds up to a \$5 million less a year, enough to cover 80 teachers' salaries.

Two years ago, Zionsville voters approved a referendum to temporarily raise taxes to offset some of

the local schools' losses. Robison doesn't think he should have to ask again. "We just think enough is enough," he said. "Our students deserve adequate and equitable funding, instead of this serial instability that comes from what amounts to double taxation." Some House Republicans suggest the state can raise the most basic level of funding for all schools, if its projected revenues rise by at least 2 percent.

Dennis Costerison, head of the Indiana School Business Officials Association, said he would like to see every district in the state get more "foundation" funding per pupil in that scenario. "There's not a district in the state that couldn't use more money," Costerison said.

**Brown, a powerful** fiscal gatekeeper in the General Assembly, said he's optimistic about revenue projections, with a caveat: "I could make all sorts of statements, but in two months from now, they could be all out the window depending on what the state revenue forecast says."

But Democrats say they're skeptical about how changing the funding formula will play out. House Minority Leader Scott Pelath said public schools are suffering because the Republican-controlled legislature routinely "took a meat cleaver" to their funding while increasing dollars for private-school vouchers and charter schools.

Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, is wary over the revenue forecast. The state's revenues have fallen below projections over the last year, he said, and he doesn't think Republicans will budge off promises not to raise taxes and to maintain the state \$2 billion in reserves. He worries that significant changes to the formula will create winners and losers, with the losers being schools that now get the most per student. "The pot is only so big. The money has to come from somewhere," he said. "My concern is that it will come from urban and rural schools in districts with the highest poverty levels, with students who need the most help."

The school formula has undergone major changes over the last two decades. Built-in guarantees had funneled more dollars to schools that have lost enrollment, or it still sends more money to schools with higher student poverty rates.

The Republican-controlled legislature voted four years ago to remove some of those automatic aspects of the formula over seven years. Lawmakers are expected to consider speeding up that timetable, causing schools to gain or lose state funds more quickly than planned. Also under closer scrutiny is the state's "complexity index," a measure of student poverty that boosts the funding for schools. At a briefing last week, House Speaker Brian Bosma didn't dispute the idea that students in poverty tend to be less prepared for school than their wealthier counterparts, and therefore more expensive to educate.

**But Republicans** will likely push for more accountability in how \$1.2 billion in funds tied to the complexity index are spent. Some want more of those dollars tied to metrics such as academic performance, student growth, and graduation rates. ❖



# Money, big guns flow into Delph, Ford race

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

CARMEL – The most interesting race this fall is the one that on paper isn't supposed to be much of a contest: State Sen. Mike Delph facing a challenge from gay Democrat J.D. Ford.

But in recent weeks, Ford is pulling in some top-level fire power. U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly and 2012 gubernatorial nominee John Gregg have been gone door to door with Ford.



Delph is also bringing in the big guns. On Saturday, he is holding a fundraiser co-sponsored by Gov. Mike Pence (who along with the First Lady was actually listed second on the host list),

with suggested donations in the \$2,500 to \$250 range. The sponsors include U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, Indiana Manufacturers Association President Pat Kiely, Les Sebring, former congressman Dan Burton, J.R. Gaylor, and Fred Klipsch.

Between Oct. 16 and 21, a number of large contributions have been filed with the secretary of state's election finance site, including \$4,000 from the Mike Pence for Indiana Committee, \$5,000 from Jeff Levietz of Boca Raton, Fla., \$1,000 each from Monarch Beverage PAC and Vision Concepts, and \$3,168.64 from the Indiana Republican Party for an in-kind mailer.

Delph began the cycle with \$180,000 and reported \$210,839 when his last report was filed on April 21. The Senate Majority Campaign Committee has spent nothing on Delph's behalf as of Wednesday night, while Indiana Democrats have put just \$11,000 in late money into Ford's campaign.

The Indiana Democratic Party has sent in multiple direct-mail pieces hitting Delph on his Twitter meltdown last winter. At 8:08 a.m. on Feb. 14, the Carmel Republican did what no other Hoosier politician had done in modern times. "My biggest criticism is with the evangelical church. GraceCC, E91, College Park, Northview, etc...you all should be ashamed!" Delph said on his Twitter account, part of a running social media dialogue in the wake of the constitutional marriage amendment passing the Indiana Senate in its stripped down, single-sentence form.

The Delph twitter episode not only earned him headlines and coverage on local TV and radio news, but it brought punishment from Senate leadership for violating

caucus rules, costing him his leadership and ranking committee positions, as well as his press secretary.

Evangelical Republicans are rallying around Delph, with the Indiana Family Institute honoring him at its annual banquet last month.

Delph is still lashing out at the media. When WTHR-TV's Kevin Rader covered Donnelly's door-to-door foray with Ford on Oct. 13, Delph declined to comment, with Rader reporting, "Senator Delph failed to return our requests for an interview until late in the afternoon when he sent an email saying he was not interested in helping his opponent with free advertising courtesy of Sen. Donnelly."

Hours later, Delph tweeted, "Liberal media bias is alive and well in Indiana. But I still have confidence in my voters many of whom like the media less than I do."

Rader reported: "Actually 54%, Senator Donnelly won this district," said Ford, "so that tells me people are independent thinking." Donnelly added, "I know how hard he's worked and I know because he's worked so hard he's right in the hunt. He's got a great chance to win."

Delph faces this dynamic: Moderate Republicans in Zionsville and Carmel as well as independent voters are not impressed with Delph's theatrics on Twitter as well as his press conference that earned the ire of Senate leadership. The risk here is they do what they did to 2012 U.S. Senate nominee Richard Mourdock, which is to scratch on the SD29 race. So Delph needs to bring out as much of his base as possible in what is shaping up to be a very low turnout election.

The other half of this is Marion County Clerk Beth White stoking her base in Democratic Pike Township for her secretary of state bid. The combination of a low turnout election, moderate alienation and both sides stoking up the base could make this race closer than anyone dreamed of when the maps were drawn in 2011.

Delph is acting like a nervous candidate, yet he has a commanding money advantage and a nominally Republican district. But it's worth watching and because of the late money, the big guns coming into the district, and the incumbent's skittish conduct, we are moving this race from the "likely" Delph category. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Delph.



**U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly goes door-to-door with Democrat J.D. Ford in SD28 on Oct. 13.**

## HD35: Surveying the Lutz, Wright race

Muncie Star Press columnist Larry Riley is calling this race between Republican State Rep. Jack Lutz and Democrat Melanie Wright "the only one that actually appears in play" in East Central Indiana. Here's Riley's take: Lutz is in his 22nd year representing East Central Indiana in the Statehouse. His District 35 includes 24 western Delaware County precincts and the northern part of Madison County. Wright, a Yorktown resident, teaches in Daleville schools. Two years ago, she mounted a campaign and came within 447 votes, out of nearly 29,000 ballots cast, of ousting Lutz. The Indiana Democratic State

Central Committee is going all out for Wright by hitting hard on Lutz’s record. A series of large, mailed cardboard fliers doesn’t even mention Wright; they simply eviscerate Lutz for such allegations as sitting in the pocket of big utilities or voting for legislator pay raises. Clearly, the state Democratic party thinks he’s vulnerable and Wright is primed for a minor upset. Despite his tenure, Lutz is not among House leaders. He chairs no committees, and is vice chairman of the public policy committee. He’s authored five bills in the past three sessions, none this year. Two became law, one of which honored Yorktown’s girls’ volleyball team. Most of his co-authored legislation was to congratulate, honor, memorialize, or recognize someone or something. The Anderson resident spent two terms on the Madison County Council in the 1980s.

Wright has run one TV ad taking Lutz to task over a birthday cake he gave a lobbyist, and another ad is set to begin running this week. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**Following the House money**

The House Republican Campaign Committee, seeking to protect a 69-seat super majority, has put the most late supplemental funding into incumbents Ed Soliday in HD4, Alan Morrison in HD42, Matt Ubelhor in HD62 and Martin Carbaugh in HD81. Here is the breakdown of late House money:

**HD4:** State Rep. Ed Soliday has received \$60,000 in late supplemental money as he tries to fend off a challenge from Portage teacher Deb Porter, a Democrat. About \$37,000 has come from labor unions, including \$2,500 from the ISTA, while another \$7,000 has come in from Vision Concepts, a PAC affiliated with Monarch Beverage. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**HD11:** Republican Michael Aylesworth has received \$25,000 in late HRCC money in this open seat. He faces Democrat James Metro. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Aylesworth.

**HD19:** Republican challenger Julie Olthoff has received \$46,000 from HRCC in her challenge to State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh. Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody notes that Democrats view the Lake County races as a “cluster” and said the party will invest in both HD11 and 19. **Horse Race Status:** Likely VanDenburgh.

**HD21:** A state teachers group has pumped nearly \$20,000 into the campaign of Indiana House hopeful Jodi Buoscio, making the organization the largest donor in the contest in the latest reporting period (Elkhart Truth). The money — \$19,000 between Sept. 15 and Oct. 19 from the Indiana Political Action Committee for Education — has helped Buoscio, a Democrat and a teacher, keep pace financially with GOP incumbent Rep. Tim Wesco — at least somewhat. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Wesco

**HD22:** Republican Curt Nisly led in fundraising in the District 22 Indiana House race, with \$31,293.81 between April 12 and Oct. 10. He had spent \$71,361.25

and his paperwork showed him with a campaign deficit of \$25,225.90 and another \$6,542.48 in debt, funds Nisly loaned to the campaign out of his own pocket (Elkhart Truth). The Lunch Pail Republicans, a conservative labor group, donated \$5,000 to Nisly in the latest period. The paperwork showed the group had donated \$21,000 in all to him in 2014. Democrat David Kolbe of Warsaw had generated \$12,556.74 in donations and remained with \$241.23 at the end of the reporting period. The campaign owed another \$3,944.28, funds donated by Kolbe to his own campaign. Independent Michael Stinifer of Warsaw reported \$1,681.26 in contributions and \$1,557.57 remaining at the end of the period. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Nisly

**HD42:** Morrison, a freshman facing Democrat teacher Mark Spelbring in a rematch, has received \$88,000 from HRCC. Wesco’s biggest donor was the Indiana House Republican Campaign Committee, or IHRCC, which chipped in \$11,400 to his campaign. Morrison defeated Spelbring in 2012 by a little more than 100 votes. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**HD62:** State Rep. Matt Ubelhor has received \$47,000 from HRCC in his race against Democrat school principal Jeff Sparks. Ubelhor defeated Sparks in 2012 by about 1,200 votes. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ubelhor.

Dist.	Candidate	Total Pre-Elect Supplemental	DEM	GOP
4	Deb Porter	6,000	6,000	
	Ed Soliday	60,294		60,294
11	James Metro	11,000	11,000	
	Mike Aylesworth	25,000		25,000
12	Mara Reardon	16,000	16,000	
	William Fine	13,500		13,500
15	Jim Wieser	2,000	2,000	
	Hal Slager	3,500		3,500
19	Shelli VanDenburgh	3,000	3,000	
	Julie Olthoff	46,000		46,000
35	Melanie Wright	6,000	6,000	
	Jack Lutz	0		
42	Mark Spelbring	2,000	2,000	
	Alan Morrison	88,000		88,000
56	Phil Pflum	3,000	3,000	
	Dick Hamm	0		
62	Jeff Sparks	17,000	17,000	
	Matt Ubelhor	47,500		47,500
74	Mike Schriever	0		
	Lloyd Arnold	26,500		26,500
76	Tony Goben	1,000	1,000	
	Wendy McNamara	0		
81	Thad Gerardot	2,500	2,500	
	Martin Carbaugh	64,000		64,000
87	Christina Hale	5,000	5,000	
	Mike Friedman	1,500		1,500
92	Karlee Macer	3,500	3,500	
	Brad Moulton	0		
		453,794	78,000	375,794

**HD74:** Freshman State Rep. Lloyd Arnold has received \$26,500 from HRCC in his race against Democrat Chris Coyle.

**Horse Race Status:** Leans Arnold.

**HD81:** State Rep. Martin Carbaugh has received \$64,000 from HRCC in his race against Democrat Thad Geradot.

This may be more insurance money as our Democratic sources don't seem real excited about this race. The concern here is the Republican Fort Wayne City Council had passed and overridden a mayoral veto over restricting collective bargaining for city employees, which has angered unions.

**Horse Race Status:** Leans Carbaugh.

**Horse Race House overview:** Democrats need to pick up four seats to end the Republican super majority, but will almost certainly lose HD45, where Republican Bruce Borders will take the seat currently held by Democratic Rep. Bionca Gambill (after Rep. Kreg Battles). Indiana Manufacturers and Chamber are not putting much money into these races. HRCC is also not funding State Rep. Jack Lutz. We're not seeing enough traction at this point to forecast an end to the super majority, though expect Democrats to begin exploiting Gov. Mike Pence's decision to reject \$80 million in federal pre-K funding, which could stimulate the Ritz/Teacher coalition to turn out.

### Following the Senate money

**SD15:** The Senate Majority Campaign Committee has pumped \$67,000 into Republican Liz Brown's campaign against Democrat Jack Morris in this open seat, including about \$20,000 on Wednesday. Democrats have given Morris \$24,325. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Brown.

**SD38:** This is a late developing race with Republicans pumping \$25,000 into the campaign of Jon Ford in an attempt to unseat Democrat State Sen. Tim Skinner. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann have come in to stump for Ford. Zody sees the SMCC expenditure in this race the luxury of a caucus with money to spend, hoping to pry out an upset. "Skinner is doing well," Zody insisted. But this seems like a race where a caucus with the luxury to spend and get Democrats into a defense mode is the dynamic here. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Skinner.

**SD45:** From a money standpoint, this is where

Dist.	Candidate	Total Pre-Elect Supplemental	DEM	GOP
15	Jack Morris	24,325	24,325	
	Liz Brown	67,219		67,219
27	Jake Hoog	0		
	Jeff Raatz	14,804		14,804
29	J.D. Ford	10,881	10,881	
	Mike Delph	14,168		14,168
38	Tim Skinner	27,000	27,000	
	Jon Ford	34,000		34,000
39	Steve Lindsey	0		
	Eric Bassler	23,784		23,784
45	Julie Berry	33,456	33,456	
	Jim Smith	95,756		95,756
46	Chuck Freiburger	0		
	Ron Grooms	98,180		98,180
47	Richard Young	22,900	22,900	
	Erin Houchin	76,805		76,805
48	Larry Vollmer	0		
	Mark Messmer	10,000		10,000
		553,278	118,562	434,716

the fireworks are. The SMCC has pumped \$87,000 of late supplemental money into the campaign of freshman Sen. Jim Smith, while Indiana Democrats have given former Jefferson County Commissioner Julie Berry \$31,500. Keep your eyes on this one. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**SD46:** On Wednesday, nearly \$100,000 from the SMCC was pumped into State Sen. Ron Grooms' campaign as he attempts to fend off Democrat Floyd County Commissioner Chuck Freiburger, who has been stressing issues such as per

capita income, bridge tolls and the minimum wage. We still see this as a tossup, but Republicans look like they think Grooms can pull this one out. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**SD47:** SMCC has sent \$76,800 in supplemental funds to Republican Erin Houchin while Democrats have sent in \$22,000 on behalf of State Sen. Richard Young. Sources in both parties tell HPI this is a pure tossup.

**Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

**Horse Race Senate overview:** We actually think Republicans could pick up a couple of seats to expand their majority to 39 from 37, assuming that Sens. Delph, Smith and Grooms can hold on, State Rep. Mark Messmer picks up Sen. Lindel Hume's open seat (a safe assumption) and Houchin knocks off Sen. Young.

### White campaign forgot disclaimer

Democrat Beth White's staff acknowledged Wednesday that it distributed campaign material for her secretary of state's political bid without a required disclosure notice (Indianapolis Business Journal). But spokesman Chris Becker called the problem an oversight and said the campaign has stopped using the postcard-style materials. Still, the Indiana Republican Party announced Wednesday that it intends to file a complaint with the Indiana Election Division about the issue. "Democrat Beth White is asking voters to make her the state's chief election officer, but she failed to follow a very well-known state election law," said Indiana Republican Chairman Tim Berry. ❖

# Walorski, Bock and the Wabash debate

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – 'Tis the season to be debating over debates. Front-running candidates say they just can't find time for debates in their busy schedules. Their opponents, if seen as trailing in polls and name recognition, call for numerous debates and call the front-runners "chicken" for declining.



Let's consider some questions about the debate over debates in Indiana's 2nd Congressional District, where Republican Congresswoman Jackie Walorski won't participate in a televised debate and Democratic challenger Joe Bock says she is "trying to hide her horrible voting record" by declining.

**Q.** Should we call Walorski "chicken?"

**A.** No, call her a smart politician.

**Q.** Walorski's not afraid she couldn't debate issues with Bock?

**A.** Of course not. Neither candidate is afraid to talk about issues. Both are articulate and knowledgeable. It's just that they want to talk about different issues in different formats for different political reasons.

**Q.** Why does Bock want debates?

**A.** Bock trails in campaign financing and has been pretty much written off by Democrats at the national level and by national congressional race handicapper Charlie Cook. He would like televised debates to capture voter attention with things like Walorski's support for the government shutdown and what he calls her Tea Party voting record.

**Q.** Why doesn't Walorski, if she can talk issues, agree to televised debates?

**A.** Since she is the front-runner and has a lot more financing for TV commercials in the closing weeks of the campaign, she would like to focus voter attention on things like her efforts in Congress for veterans and against sexual assault in the military. Walorski can do that in TV



ads and sees no advantage in giving Bock exposure for his contentions in televised debates.

**Q.** But don't candidates owe it to the voters to discuss and debate all the issues?

**A.** If you're talking about theories in a civics class on how to inform voters, sure. If you're talking in political terms about how to sway voters to win an election, no. Political consultants don't urge informing voters about all the issues, just persuading a majority with the issues most advantageous.

**Q.** Are candidates consistent on debating?

**A.** No. Walorski, as challenger to Joe Donnelly, then the Democratic incumbent in the 2nd District, called for a bunch of debates. Bock, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in the primary, declined to debate an opponent who wanted a bunch of debates.

**Q.** Does Bock have a chance to win without a televised debate to capture voter attention?

**A.** Yes. But not a very good one at this point, with or without a debate.

**Q.** Is Bock's problem just campaign financing?

**A.** Redistricting and the drag on Democratic candidates by current presidential unpopularity are among the problems. The latest campaign finance reports show that money is a serious problem for Bock.

**Q.** How serious?

**A.** Well, reports filed last week show Walorski has raised over a million dollars more than Bock, \$1,842,000 to \$743,000. As of Oct.1, she had \$544,000 in cash on hand. He had only \$78,000. In just the third quarter of the year, Walorski spent over \$450,000 with a media consultant firm in Alexandria, Va., for advertising. Walorski was able to go on TV early and often with very effective commercials.

**Q.** Will they debate anywhere, even if not on live TV?

**A.** They were scheduled once, in Wabash at the southeastern edge of the district on Tuesday, with the Wabash County Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce the sponsors.

**Q.** Any chance to see them on TV other than in their own commercials?

**A.** There was one, Sunday on "Politically Speaking" on WNIT-TV. It wasn't a debate. They weren't on together. But they answered the same questions in separate interviews.

**Q.** Was it as informative as a live debate?

**A.** Maybe more so. Debates sometimes get into silly flaps. The interviews showed how they are miles apart on ideology on most of the significant issues. ❖

# Brooks eyes ebola, ISIS and proper funding

By **MATTHEW BUTLER**

INDIANAPOLIS – Freshman U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks sits at the nexus of two crises facing the United States: The potential spread of the ebola virus, and the terror threat from ISIS.

In a Monday interview with HPI, Brooks was in the midst of coordinating the federal government with state and local units on preparedness issues. "I want to hear how the federal response is coordinating with state and locals," Brooks told Howey Politics Indiana. "Is the information flowing like it needs to? I'm concerned about that."

Rep. Brooks, R-Carmel, has registered increasing concern and unease about international threats within her district. "I did not anticipate that people would be as concerned about terrorism as they are now," she said. "People are more anxious about national security and personal security than I would have guessed going into the campaign when I came home in September." She thinks the late summer and autumn have been a perfect storm of one crisis after another: Southern border security, ISIS, and ebola. Her constituents are not outliers. Although it ranks behind five other concerns, ebola now ranks for the first time among the top 10 issues concerning Americans, including illegal immigration and terrorism, according to Gallup.

Now coming to an end, Brooks' first term has been distinguished by tackling national security issues on both the domestic and international front. She chairs the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, a definite honor for a congressional freshman. Another signature accomplishment has been serving on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, a coveted appointment.

None of this, however, should be surprising after reviewing Brooks' resume. As a newly appointed U.S. attorney in the wake of 9/11, she was tasked with overhauling government for terrorism and disaster preparedness from the federal to the local level. Her experience with latter was honed as an Indianapolis deputy mayor who liaised with the city's first responders. We took this opportunity to tap the congresswoman's expertise on biodefense, ISIS, and lessons from the Benghazi attack.

## Czars and travel bans

The Obama Administration's recent appointment of

Indianapolis native Ron Klain as the "ebola czar" pleases Rep. Brooks, but she also worries about his medical expertise and that the position is of an ad hoc nature. (POLITICO reported Tuesday that Klain would eventually transition to replace John Podesta as counselor to President Obama.) "I don't question his management experience, but managing crisis of a health nature, I think requires a different level of expertise," she said. "For example, to know who to call, to have a network of medical professionals. I would have preferred, and a lot of other people would have preferred, someone with an extensive medical background."

Rep. Brooks would like to see a fulltime post within the White House coordinating biodefense policy and supervising as-needed responses by the CDC, HHS, and surgeon general. "We have been calling on the administration (before the ebola crisis) to put in place a different kind of position that the Clinton and the George W. Bush administrations had," Brooks told HPI. That position,

special assistant to the President on bio-defense policy, was eliminated in 2009. The Office of Health Affairs under the Homeland Security Administration partly assumed those duties. "These are not normal types of threats that law enforcement is used to dealing with, that health care is used to dealing with, so it needs a different level of expertise," she explained. "We saw that in the anthrax scare of 2001."

Concerning a frequent refrain that if we do not proactively fight terrorism "over there" we will end up fighting it "here," Rep. Brooks was asked if the best way to secure Americans from ebola is to tackle the problem on the ground in West Africa. "I do think we need to fight it over there and keep it

from spreading over there," she told HPI. Brooks was careful to note the need to assist airlifting medical personnel and supplies to and from the region, but said a quarantine period is needed for those returning from the region. Moreover, she said we are duty-bound to airlift infected Americans to our specialized hospitals for state-of-the-art care. "I don't think we can say it's not our problem; it's clearly our problem," she said. "And it could be a much bigger national problem if we don't help stamp it out."

Nonetheless, Rep. Brooks has been vocal in calling for tighter travel screenings and restrictions. Last week she called upon the CDC to use the TSA's "Do not board" list to prevent those exposed to ebola from flying. As for travelers originating from countries affected in West Africa, Brooks said, "I am in favor a temporary suspension of visas." The Obama Administration disagrees, but, starting Wednesday, travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are required to enter the country through five designated screening airports. Already hundreds of travelers from the region have been screened for symptoms and



temperature.

Can ebola serve as a dress rehearsal for the possibility of a future airborne pandemic, such as a virulent and deadly flu strain? "Absolutely," she answered. "We've had flu issues in the past and SARS. I think what has made this different, or why it feels different, is because ebola is deadly so fast."

Because of these questions and concerns, Brooks is pleased to see Congress exercising its oversight function in a serious, bipartisan fashion. "Health care workers and the traveling public have every right to be concerned. It's one thing to say you're following CDC protocols," Brooks added, "but are the protocols right? Have they trained for them? Are they implementing them?" She promised to put these questions before public health officials in the coming days and weeks.

Brooks supports increased funding for the CDC and NIH. It has been one of her top priorities in her appropriation requests. "Because we have the best scientists in the world, the best health care in the world, we can be finding cures and treatments and investing more so that in the long run it will reduce our health care costs," she pointed out.

Ebola and biodefense aside, we asked about the importance of the NIH in researching growing antibiotic resistance, something the World Health Organization has warned will become a dire public health problem in the coming years – something far more serious than ebola. Rep. Brooks thought not enough elected officials were talking about it. She alluded to what she thinks is the promising 21st Century Cures program under the Energy and Commerce Committee, a panel on which she hopes to secure a seat. The initiative aims to increase funding for and coordination among the FDA, NIH, and research universities to hasten the development of scientific discovery and therapy innovation. Indeed, she held a field hearing at Roche Diagnostics on the effort last month. Overall, she hopes the ebola crisis will bring greater attention to these wider problems and institutions.

## Combatting ISIS

Despite our intensifying bombing campaign and supply drops, it appears ISIS still remains on the march. HPI asked Rep. Brooks to assess the situation. "It's a travesty what's happening in Iraq after we have invested so much, so many American lives that we left without a game plan or force in place that would ensure that Iraqi Army was prepared to defend itself," she said. "It clearly was not ready for us to pull out." (According Leon Panetta, the al-Maliki government would not acquiesce to a status of forces agreement allowing a substantial U.S. residual force to remain.)

Going forward, Rep. Brooks feels more should

be done to aid the steadfast American allies and fighters on the frontline against ISIS, namely the Kurds. "The Kurds have been an exceptionally strong fighting force in Iraq," she said, "and, from what I read, they're holding on to communities. I think there is more that we could be doing." Nonetheless, Brooks supports the Obama Administration's wider efforts to build a regional coalition against ISIS.

Rep. Brooks is also alarmed about the spread of ISIS and its global recruiting efforts through social media. She says they are improving "their capabilities of radicalizing more and more people here in this country." It's imperative, she said, that we are able to assess who and how many the group is radicalizing, particularly among young men who might be susceptible to their message. Besides over 100 American passport holders suspected to be working with ISIS, three Colorado teenage girls just this week attempted to fly to Syria and join the group.

Two attacks this week in Canada appear to be at least ISIS inspired, including an attack on Parliament in Ottawa.

Radicalizing Americans to launch attacks harkens back to the April 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. Are such attacks or attempted attacks more likely thanks to ISIS? Rep. Brooks said the case of the Tsarnaev brothers reemphasizes one of the key lessons of 9/11, sharing intelligence. The elder brother was apparently radicalized in Boston and trained during a 2012 visit to the unstable caucus region of Russia. Russian security (FSB) notified the FBI in 2011, which then interviewed him and relatives but found nothing significant. Nonetheless, he remained on FSB, FBI, and CIA watch lists. The crucial problem, according to Brooks, was that none of this was shared with Boston police. "That was a huge mistake that had deadly consequences," she explained. "State and local law enforcement need to know who is in their backyard."

The former U.S. attorney believes state or local authorities would have placed the brothers under surveillance, which could have revealed and thus prevented their bombing preparations. This lapse was "hopefully corrected" after revisiting these lessons, yet again, and with the recent appointment of James Comey to head the FBI, a former fellow U.S. attorney.

A positive aspect of the Boston bombings was how disaster training prepared first responders and hospitals to better deal with mass casualties, Rep. Brooks said. "They had just done a huge training exercise in Boston a few months before the marathon. They had received federal funding to do training and they had a massive exercise with their hospital systems and first responders, and one of the things they exercised was a bombing. In the immediate wake of the marathon attack, they were remarkable in the number of lives they saved."



Terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and the recent ebola crisis have revealed chinks in the armor of our national and local preparedness. "Incidents like this cause us to really focus on training," said Brooks. "It shows how important training is and preparedness. Yet, often in these times of limited budgets in any institution, whether it's a private company, whether it's government, training is the first thing to be cut."

In Indianapolis, Brooks assured HPI, "We do a lot of training. They have a lot of exercises. In the past they have received and will continue to receive what's called Urban Area Security Initiative grants, where they bring together surrounding communities to have a big training exercise." Brooks credits Indianapolis' experience in regularly hosting large events with a culture of training and preparedness. "We do a really good job," she said. At a recent field hearing in Carmel, she heard from first responders and health care workers on disaster plans. She noted Central Indiana hospitals are well served by MESH, a coalition that prepares the region for large medical emergencies.

## Benghazi lessons

With the Select Committee on Benghazi still investigating and taking testimony, we asked how the process was going. She sees it as a wider study of State Department security practices and how to better secure our diplomats and embassies in the future. "One thing I didn't have a good appreciation of before I was appointed to this committee," she said, "was the number of attacks and types of attacks on embassies and consulates since 1998. There have been hundreds and yet it hasn't gotten the appropriate level of attention from Congress or the American people."

The Foreign Service is known for a culture that does not want to be seen hiding behind fortress walls, perhaps to a fault. "One of the hopeful outcomes of this is that we will help transform the level of importance the state department gives to its personnel," she added. "It crosses administrations and they aren't putting attention on the security of their personnel." With better assistance from the intelligence community – another instance on the importance of intelligence sharing – she believes the department can manage an effective balance of diplomacy with security. ❖

# Ebola is about size and scope of government

By MICHAEL HICKS

MUNCIE – This whole issue is about the size and scope of government.

The U.S. government's response to the ebola crisis offers a case study on some of the central problems of our times. For many months, anyone possessing an elementary understanding of probability and statistics has known that someone with ebola would enter the U.S.

What we needed from the CDC was a bit of helpful guidance on how to help afflicted patients while protecting ourselves. In its place, we received a series of anti-alarmist untruths while actual

useful information was dangerously neglected. On account of this, at least one person succumbed to the disease (or at least that will be the tort defense of the Texas hospital).

**The panic and confusion** of ebola is instructive in many ways, but there is a lot more to this than simply a series of failures at the CDC. This whole issue is about the size and scope of government.

The current director of the CDC is best known as a

public health advocate for leading the ban on large sodas in New York. Today, he is a leading spokesman in an administration that has drastically transformed school lunch menus around the country. So, the ebola fiasco must be placed in context alongside both of these efforts.

**The amount of soda** each of us drinks is a wholly private decision and no reasonably decent government should be involved in this decision. This may be why the ban happened in New York, under this CDC director. Likewise, the school lunch menu is simply not a matter for the federal government. It is a matter for school boards, school superintendents, principals, and (most importantly) parents.

That the feds have mandated menus and food restrictions over the state and local government offers the single most compelling argument for eliminating a whole slew of federal agencies and sending their budgets back to the states as block grants.

**Thus the federal** government agency charged with preparing us for contagious diseases failed miserably to do anything of relevance. That is neither an accident nor an isolated failure of government. The leaders of this administration wholly reject the notion that the federal government has a limited scope. This disregard for the Constitution has consequences.

Attempting to stem the exposure of Americans to infectious diseases crossing our borders is clearly a federal issue. Here the federal government failed. This was not due to limited resources. The CDC's annual budget is bigger than all the 2,024 public schools in Indiana com-



bined. Rather it is because they are preoccupied with such matters as the size of fountain drinks and the number of cookies in a school lunch.

The CDC has sufficient resources to address ebola; they are simply misdirected by a failed and ideologically vacuous leadership. Effective government doesn't just do its job well, but also knows what is outside its scope.

We should offer prayer and hope to those who are sick and give thanks that ebola is unlikely to infect many in this nation. Instead, our affliction is an over-reaching, costly, ideologically vapid and ineffective federal government. ❖

**Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Francis Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.**

## Gov. Pence disregards Hoosier poor children



**By MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Years ago, as I drove through the north side of Indianapolis, I'd listen on my car radio to a conservative talk show host struggling without a guest. As he tried to coax phone calls from his audience, I might stop in at the radio station.

Often I told him, "Mike, you're too intelligent to believe the things you say." I no longer believe that is

true.

Gov. Mike Pence demonstrates a disregard for the economic well-being of Hoosiers. He is dominated by the ultra-right wing of a once proud and effective Republican party. He allows the short-sighted leadership of that party to dictate foolish policies undermining Indiana's future.

We need go back no further than the governor's refusal last week to apply for \$80 million in federal aid for pre-kindergarten programs. This money is not assured, but Indiana had a chance to compete for the funds. The governor declined to have the state apply for the money.

**Why would Mike Pence** do this? His answer: "We don't know nor trust the strings the feds might attach to the money. Indiana should go its own way to be free of unwanted regulations.

This reason is based on a profound anti-government paranoia that afflicts too many Americans on the left and the right. In this case, it reduces the opportunities of

our youngest, often our poorest, citizens to start life with higher quality pre-school experiences. Instead of leveling the playing field, those who have committed the crime of coming into a poor, dysfunctional household, are consigned to an obstructed start to life.

**Instead of largely unqualified**, inconsistent daycare, we could be moving toward better programs preparing pupils for school. We could teach them how to interact more effectively with persons from backgrounds unlike their own. We could help them develop essential skills they will depend on in school, on the job and in the wider society.

The governor says we need to see what works and what doesn't work in Indiana. Are our kids really different from those in our neighboring states? Have they, by age three or four, developed such geographically distinctive personalities that they need a significantly differentiated curriculum?

The answers are No and No.

Why has Gov. Pence chosen to turn away the possibility of federal assistance for a program he says he wants? The answer, I fear, is he wants to shield church-run daycare facilities from more rigorous inspections, tougher standards, and demanding certification.

**The current weak-kneed** policies of the State of Indiana allow the unqualified to run inadequate, often unsafe facilities for the poorest of our children in the name of amorphous religion. Then, those who won't help them get to the starting blocks complain these children are not prepared for school, not ready to learn, do not learn and cannot compete in the labor force.

Based on his decisions on Medicaid, Mike Pence seems to be at war with the poor. With his most recent rejection of funding for pre-school students, he is intensifying that war and continuing to imperil our state's future.

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**Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker who may be reached at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com).**

## Upcoming session key for NW Indiana

**By RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – It is fair to say that all sessions of the Indiana General Assembly are important, some more than others, of course. And the one that begins the first week of January won't be an exception. The session will be important for several reasons, but there are two that are at the top of the list for Northwest Indiana.

For the state's public education system, it will be



vital for Democrats to stop the bleeding brought on by Republican initiatives, most of which have negatively impacted public schools. For Northwest Indiana specifically, this session will be of the utmost importance in a number of areas.

**The longterm viability** of the casino industry, which has watched revenues plummet, could be determined by what is or isn't done this legislative session. It will be particularly important for the Majestic Star Casino in Gary and the Ohio River casinos of Rising Star Casino and Tropicana in Evansville. Each of the three is hoping the legislature will allow all casinos to move from water to land as long as they stay within the same footprint.



And for the Majestic Star, it is vital for the casino to retain its two licenses for taxing purposes. Even though the Majestic Star now is essentially one casino, it bought the Trump Casino and its license for more than \$100 million years back. The Majestic should be allowed to keep the two licenses, and at the least sell one of them.

The direction of casino legislation likely will be determined by the interim study commission on gambling that is expected to issue its recommendations on Oct. 30. Sen. Earline Rogers, R-Gary, the woman who provided the impetus to bring casino gambling to Indiana, is on the committee.

Perhaps even more vital for Northwest Indiana is the reauthorization of the NWI Regional Development Authority. When it was created almost 10 years ago, the state pledged \$10 million annually over the next decade. But there is talk now that some Republican legislative leaders want the RDA to come to the General Assembly with hat in hand for specific projects. The legislature would have the final say.

Besides state money, the RDA receives \$3.5 million annually each from Lake and Porter counties and \$3.5 million annually from Gary, Hammond and East Chicago, the cities that host casinos.

A considerable amount of RDA money has been spent in Lake and Porter counties on U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky's Marquette Project to reclaim a portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline for public use.

**RDA funding is key** to the South Shore project to expand commuter rail service from Hammond to Dyer and eventually to Lowell. The RDA has pledged \$8 million annually as part of the local match for federal dollars that Visclosky has vowed to secure. And because he is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, it's a pretty good bet that he will deliver the money.

Lake County and most of the municipalities within the county have pledged various amounts for the South Shore over the next 30 years. Hammond is one of the

communities that hasn't pledged. Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. wants a referendum to let the voters decide. That kind of talk surely won't be helpful in getting the legislature to reauthorize RDA funding. And McDermott apparently forgets that his city has benefitted from the RDA money. ❖

**Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.**



## DCCC reenters Kentucky Senate race for Grimes

LOUISVILLE - The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is jumping back into the Kentucky Senate race after stopping its TV ad buy last week (The Hill).

A DSCC official confirmed the committee plans to spend another \$650,000 on TV to bolster Democratic candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes against Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.).

According a Democratic source tracking ad buys, Senate Majority PAC is also poised to go back on the air with a purchase in the high six figures.

Though McConnell has maintained a lead in most public polls, Democrats say the race has tightened over the past few days.

A Republican source who tracks media buys said there was no evidence on Wednesday that the Democratic campaign committee had already committed to the buy.

The committee went dark last week after a \$1.4 million ad buy against McConnell ran its course, sending a signal that it was poised to give up its bid to knock out McConnell.

But DSCC Executive Director Guy Cecil insisted at the time he was not giving up on Grimes. He noted on Tuesday of last week that he had wired \$300,000 to the Democratic get-out-the-vote operation in Kentucky.

Major Democratic donors, such as Hollywood mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg, have made defeating McConnell this cycle a top priority. They were likely disappointed by news last week that the DSCC had pulled the plug on TV spending in the Bluegrass State.

A new Bluegrass Poll conducted by SurveyUSA for The Lexington Herald-Leader, WHAS-TV and WKYT-TV and released Monday showed McConnell and Grimes in a virtual tie. The survey revealed McConnell winning support from 44 percent of likely voters compared to Grimes's 43 percent. ❖

# Viewing corruption more broadly

By **LEE HAMILTON**

BLOOMINGTON – A hefty majority of Americans believe that government is run on behalf of a few big interests. A focus on private concerns can lead to neglect of the common good.

Earlier this year, veteran political writer Thomas Edsall reported an eyebrow-raising fact about Americans' views toward government. Polling by Gallup, he noted, found that the proportion of Americans who believed that corruption is "widespread" in government had risen from 59 percent in 2006 to 79 percent in 2013. "In other words," Edsall wrote, "we were cynical already, but now we're in overdrive."



Given the blanket coverage devoted to public officials charged with selling their influence, this shouldn't be surprising. Former Virginia Gov. Bob

McDonnell and his wife were convicted last month of violating public corruption laws. Former mayors Ray Nagin of New Orleans and Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit were good for months of headlines. So were Republican Rep. Rick Renzi, convicted last year on influence-peddling charges, and Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., who pled guilty to charges of misusing campaign funds.

If you add state and local officials who cross the line, it might seem that we're awash in corruption. Yet as political scientist Larry Sabato told *The New York Times*, that's more perception than reality. "I've studied American political corruption throughout the 19th and 20th centuries," he said, "and, if anything, corruption was much more common in much of those centuries than today."

Nor have the numbers over the past couple of decades risen. In 1994, according to the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section, 1,165 people were charged in public-corruption cases, of whom 969 were convicted. Last year, 1,134 were charged, of whom 1,037 were convicted.

**Corruption is hardly** a negligible issue. Americans rightly have very little tolerance for public officials who are on the take. Officials who violate the law in this regard should face criminal prosecution and incarceration.

But what's notable about our corruption laws is how narrow they've become. This point is driven home by Fordham Law School Professor Zephyr Teachout in her new book, *Corruption in America*. "As a matter of federal constitutional law," she writes, "corruption now means only 'quid pro quo' corruption." Prosecutors today have to prove an intentional exchange between "briber" and public

official, in which the official receives a benefit for taking action.

Teachout argues that our founders were quite resistant to public behavior promoting private interest. She quotes George Mason, for instance, arguing against giving the President the power to appoint key officials: "By the sole power of appointing the increased officers of government," Mason insisted, "corruption pervades every town and village in the kingdom."

**As late as the second** half of the 1800s, American society was alarmed by the notion that private individuals might seek to influence government on their own or others' behalf. "If any of the great corporations of the country were to hire adventurers... to procure the passage of a general law with a view to the promotion of their private interests, the moral sense of every right-minded man would instinctively denounce the employer and the employed as steeped in corruption," the Supreme Court declared in 1874.

We have another word for "adventurers" these days. We call them lobbyists.

Americans remain uncomfortable with "corruption" as our forebears viewed it.

A hefty majority believe that government is run on behalf of a few big interests. And Congress, whose ethics committees have not been rigorous in looking for misconduct that brings discredit on their chambers, has contributed to that view.

I would hardly contend that all who seek to promote their private interests are corrupt. But I do think the founders had a valuable insight when they saw that a focus on private concerns could lead to neglect of the common good.

**I have the uneasy** feeling that too many politicians are self-absorbed, failing to put the country first, and using their office to promote their private interests. Our founders had very firm ideas about the importance to the nation of "virtue" in a public official, and they were thinking expansively about the basic standards of public accountability.

Maybe it's time we looked to them for guidance, and not think of corruption only in the narrow sense of violations of specific laws or precepts, but more broadly in terms of failing to pursue the common good. ❖

**Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.**

**Doug Ross, NWI Times:** With the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority up for reauthorization next year by the Indiana General Assembly, the South Shore expansion could finally get the traction it needs. The RDA gets \$10 million a year in state funding as well as dues paid by Porter and Lake counties and casino host communities. That state share was carved out of Major Moves, the \$3.8 billion windfall Indiana received from the 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road. With Major Moves money basically spent by now, and with RDA architect Chet Dobis long since retired from the Indiana General Assembly, the budget hawks are going to be looking at RDA with a critical eye. I've heard from more than one Northwest Indiana legislator that Luke Kenley, chairman of the powerful Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee, doesn't want to give the RDA \$10 million a year to use as its board members see fit. The RDA is going to have to ask for funding for specific projects and show the state will get a good return on its investment. The return on investment is easy to show; the RDA evaluates projects based on ROI every time it spends money. The RDA has been criticized for spending money on Marquette Plan projects — improving public access to the Lake Michigan shoreline — but failing to bring mass transit expansion to reality. Therein lies the opportunity for the South Shore expansion. The RDA needs to convince Kenley, and other powerful legislators, of the benefits Indiana will gain from extending commuter rail service. The state is the key to making this happen. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind., has worked tirelessly to obtain the local match needed to pay for the massive rail project. With few exceptions, communities in Lake County have pledged a portion of their economic development income tax proceeds to the rail project. ❖



**Matt Tully, Indystar:** Gov. Mike Pence wants to explain himself. That's a good thing; after the past week, he certainly needs to do so. By the time Pence called me late Monday afternoon, five days had passed since word had leaked about his decision to quietly kill the state's bid for a federal preschool grant that could have brought Indiana up to \$80 million over the next four years. The decision has earned Pence a flood of deserved criticism, and it's been a source of deep disappointment among early learning advocates — a group that Pence claims membership in. "This was a tough call," he said, "and sometimes if you do the right thing it can still be a painful decision." It wasn't the right thing, however, and a long list of early learning advocates have reacted with stunned disappointment to make that clear. Even after 30 minutes on the phone, Pence did not offer one specific problem with the federal grant program, or one specific instance of what he has called concerns about "federal intrusion." Instead, he said his biggest fear was that the money would have violated the cautious spirit of a one-year, \$10 million preschool pilot program,

which he admirably pushed through the legislature this year. "I wanted to make sure we were keeping faith with the program that the General Assembly had authorized, which was a pilot program," Pence said. "... As governor of the state of Indiana, I looked at this (grant) and thought it was too far, too fast. We have a better potential for long-term success by taking a thoughtful approach and engaging the public and legislature in a way that is informed by the pilot program." In his clearest words yet, amid the hits he is taking for walking away from a potential mountain of federal cash, Pence stated definitively that he plans to seek a second year for Indiana's preschool pilot program, perhaps in his as-yet unannounced 2015 legislative agenda. "We are working to identify \$10 million more," he said, mentioning state budget reserves as a potential source of funding. Despite months of work within his own administration, Pence said he learned of the state's bid late in the process. "When the team brought it to me it was days and not weeks before the decision was made," he said. "... I said, 'Well, hold on. Let's take a look at this.' We now have a program that has been designed by the General Assembly and our administration, and a framework and timetable for it." Pence is flirting with a presidential run — he will soon be in New Hampshire, a key primary state — but he insisted this decision was not influenced by that; he said he had not talked to anybody outside of Indiana about it. "This was a tough call," he repeated. ❖

**Charles Krauthammer, Washington Post:** Republicans are today on track to take back the Senate. Why is this important? It's not an end in itself. Nor will it change the trajectory of Obama's presidency. His agenda died on Nov. 2, 2010, when he lost the House. It won't be any deader on Nov. 4, 2014, if he loses the Senate. But regaining the Senate would finally give the GOP the opportunity, going into 2016, to demonstrate its capacity to govern. You can't govern the country from one house of Congress. Republicans learned that hard, yet obvious, lesson with the disastrous shutdowns of 1995 and 2013. But controlling both houses would allow the GOP to produce a compelling legislative agenda. The Democratic line is that the Republican House does nothing but block and oppose. In fact, it has passed hundreds of bills only to have them die upon reaching the desk of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. He has rendered the Senate inert by simply ensuring that any bill that might present a politically difficult vote for his Democratic colleagues never even comes to the floor. Winning control of the Senate would allow Republicans to pass a whole range of measures now being held up by Reid, often at the behest of the White House. Make it a major reform agenda. The centerpiece might be tax reform, both corporate and individual. It is needed, popular and doable.

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## Jihadist makes appeal for Kassig

WASHINGTON - An al-Qaeda-linked militant has asked the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to spare the life of an American hostage who treated jihadists during his stint as an aid worker in the region. The Telegraph reported that Abu Omar Aqidi of Jabhat al-Nusra, a Syrian group linked to al-Qaeda, tweeted his support for ISIS prisoner Peter Kassig. Kassig, a former Army Ranger who moved to the Middle East to provide humanitarian aid, is now known as Abdul-Rahman Kassig after he converted to Islam. Aqidi tweeted that Kassig "performed a successful operation under bombardment by the [Syrian] regime," removing shrapnel from his wound. He added that Kassig helped treat other jihadists in Syria. ISIS captured Kassig on October 1, 2013 and the group recently threatened Kassig when they released a video beheading British aid worker Alan Henning. ISIS reportedly gave the U.S. a deadline of this Wednesday to cease bombing the group or Kassig would be killed.



## Pannos, Cappas settle with state

EAST CHICAGO — An agreement that sent \$16 million of casino revenue to the for-profit Second Century company to help spur development in East Chicago netted the heads of the business and their associates more than \$6 million (Post-Tribune). The actual investment Second Century leaders Michael Pannos and Thomas Cappas made in East Chicago in exchange for their income: \$3.5 million. Now Pannos and Cappas have agreed to settle an eight-year legal battle over the money for \$154,042 and the disclosure of how they spent the \$16 million. Indiana Attorney General Greg

Zoeller and East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland announced the settlement Wednesday. Although they admitted that the monetary amount was small in comparison to what Second Century employees made, they argued it did represent a victory in transparency. The city and state sued Second Century about eight years ago after questions arose over the agreement it had reached with former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick in the mid-1990s. That agreement allowed 0.75 percent of revenues from the Ameristar Casino to go to Second Century, which was supposed to use it to help develop the city. About \$16 million then flowed to the company during the next 12 years, which finally stopped after the Indiana Gaming Commission forced Ameristar to negotiate a new deal.

## Candidate's mom runs newspaper ad

FORT WAYNE - Congressional candidate Justin Kuhnle said Wednesday afternoon that except for an image texted by a friend, he had little knowledge of a newspaper advertisement supporting his candidacy. "I was aware," he said about the ad, which ran in Wednesday editions of The Journal Gazette and The News-Sentinel. But he said he had not seen the newspapers. The ad states that "Stutzman" -- presumably Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd -- has voted against women and family issues and environmental issues. The ad contains a phone number. The person who answered the phone was Kuhnle's mother, Brenda Kuhnle, of Decatur. Asked what prompted the ad, Brenda Kuhnle said, "Cause people need to know what Stutzman's all about." Asked who the friends of Justin Kuhnle are, she said, "People that's backing him." Justin Kuhnle seemed amused by it all. "Oh, it's fun," he said in a telephone interview.

## Pence won't cancel trips

INDIANAPOLIS – Democrats are calling on Gov. Mike Pence to cancel a trip to New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primary, and to release documents about his decision not to apply for a federal pre-kindergarten grant (NUVO). But the governor's press secretary said Pence's presence is needed to help other GOP leaders with issues in their states. Pence is scheduled to campaign this month with Republican gubernatorial nominee Walt Havenstein and to make other campaign stops in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. "With all of the success Indiana has been having and his leadership role at the Republican Governors Association, Gov. Pence is in high demand to assist others in their efforts to bring conservative solutions to their states," said Kara Brooks, a spokeswoman for the governor. "And he will continue to work on behalf of Republican governors as his schedule allows." But Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody said Pence needs to stay home. He called for the governor to search for other creative ways to pay for an expansion of preschool.

## Pappin to run for Richmond mayor

RICHMOND - Diana Pappin is the first candidate to step forward for the 2015 race for mayor of Richmond as a Republican (Richmond Palladium-Item). Pappin recently filed paperwork in the Wayne County Clerk's office to create an exploratory committee to seek the mayoral post. "I am eager to lead the city of Richmond," Pappin said. "I will work with city employees and our citizens to make Richmond a place where new business is sought and welcomed, where growth in employment is expected, where education is valued and where people want to live."