



STATE CAPITOL
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stevenjohnson@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN JOHNSON
72ND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT, CHAIR
ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
JUDICIARY
TAX POLICY
**APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE:**
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, VICE-CHAIR

March 4, 2021

Former DHHS Director Robert Gordon
333 S. Grand Ave
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909

Robert Gordon,

I am formally requesting for you to testify in the House Oversight Committee regarding the recent reports of the separation agreement you signed with the Governor's administration as well as other issues that arose during your tenure as DHHS Director.

In light of the recent details of the separation agreement which included a cash bonus to preserve confidentiality, I believe it is only right for the public to know what that agreement included which ultimately led to your abrupt departure.

I believe accountability and transparency should be heavily present in our government and that is why I am requesting your presence for testimony in the House Oversight Committee.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Johnson".

Rep. Steve Johnson
72nd District



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March 15, 2021

Robert Gordon
3687 Beech Tree Ln
Okemos, MI 48864

Robert Gordon,

I am reaching out to again request your testimony in the House Oversight Committee regarding recent revelations that you signed a separation agreement that required confidentiality. The public demands answers and it is our job to ensure that the state's former health director be transparent about these actions. I previously sent a letter on March 8th and have not received a response.

As a reminder, the House Oversight Committee meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and we would be happy to accommodate your schedule so that you can answer the important questions that committee members have.

Please know that if you do not respond to this invitation, I will seek subpoena authority to compel your presence in accordance with MCL 4.541 and House Rule 37.

I can be reached by email at StevenJohnson@house.mi.gov or by phone at 517-373-0840. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Steve Johnson
72nd District

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Steven Johnson
72nd District
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Representative Johnson:


I am responding to your request that I appear before the House Oversight Committee.

My professional life has been dedicated to public service. From January 2019 to January 2021, I was grateful to serve Michigan and Governor Whitmer as Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. During the worst pandemic in a century, under Governor Whitmer's leadership, we stayed focused on doing the right things by acting quickly, following the science, and listening to medical experts. I appreciated Governor Whitmer's statement that "Robert Gordon and his team were an incredibly important part of our response, and I appreciated his service to our state." For the sake of greater transparency, the Governor's Office and I have agreed to waive the confidentiality provision in my separation agreement.

Extensive policy discussions are one reason that Michigan's pandemic response has been strong. Michigan's November 15 Pause to Save Lives, for example, was developed and then extended through days of deliberation. On occasion, there were robust conversations about policy issues where reasonable people could disagree and did. This was healthy: the stakes were life and death, and different people have different roles. Michigan was hit hard by COVID early, and initially had the third highest fatality rate in the nation. But different perspectives can produce strong outcomes. Michigan has fallen to 21st in deaths per capita.

The evidence is clear that Governor Whitmer's actions have saved thousands of lives. I was honored to play a part in that work. Governor Whitmer deserves a health director with whom she is comfortable. I tendered my resignation, and she accepted it. I am happy now to be a private citizen, see my family, and contribute to our country in new ways. I submit this letter in lieu of testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Gordon".

Robert Gordon



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March 26, 2021

Robert Gordon
3687 Beech Tree Ln
Okemos, MI 48864

Robert Gordon,

I am reaching out to again request your testimony in the House Oversight Committee regarding the events that led to your abrupt resignation and details about the separation agreement. Governor Whitmer and yourself have waived the confidentiality part of your agreement which now allows you to freely speak before our Committee. This is the first step toward transparency, nevertheless, removing the confidentiality portion does not serve its purpose unless you are willing to speak on it.

As a reminder, the House Oversight Committee meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and we would be happy to accommodate your schedule so that you can answer the important questions that committee members have.

Please know that if you do not respond to this invitation, I have introduced House Resolution 60, which would grant the House Oversight Committee subpoena authority to compel your presence in accordance with MCL 4.541 and House Rule 37.

I can be reached by email at StevenJohnson@house.mi.gov or by phone at 517-373-0840. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Steve Johnson
72nd District



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April 9, 2021

Robert Gordon
3687 Beech Tree Ln
Okemos, MI 48864

Robert Gordon,

I am reaching out to again request your testimony in the House Oversight Committee regarding the events that led to your abrupt resignation and details about the separation agreement. As you stated in your letter, both you and Governor Whitmer's administration have waived the confidentiality part of your agreement which allows you to freely speak before our Committee. While this is an appreciated first step toward transparency, waiving confidentiality does not serve its purpose unless you are willing to speak publicly.

As a reminder, the House Oversight Committee meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and we would be willing to accommodate your schedule so that you can answer the important questions that committee members have. Please let me know which Thursday, or even any other day, would work best for you.

Please note that I have introduced House Resolution 60, which, if approved by the House, would grant the House Oversight Committee subpoena authority to compel your presence in accordance with MCL 4.541 and House Rule 37. I am willing to pursue such action if necessary.

I can be reached by email at StevenJohnson@house.mi.gov or by phone at 517-373-0840. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Steve Johnson
72nd District

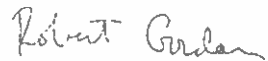
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Steven Johnson
72nd District
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Representative Johnson:

This note responds to your letter of April 9. I wrote about my departure from MDHHS on March 2 on Medium and on March 18 in response to your previous letter. As I've shared before, elected chief executives need to make final decisions about policy with confidential advice. They also need to be comfortable with their agency heads. I am happy now to be a private citizen, see my family, and contribute to our country in new ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Gordon".

Robert Gordon