

## **Yoder Calls on Holcomb to Release Number of Beds, Ventilators Available for COVID-19**

BLOOMINGTON, IND. (March 28, 2020) - Shelli Yoder, candidate for Indiana State Senate District 40 and former Monroe County Council President, today sent a letter to Governor Eric Holcomb requesting his administration immediately release the number of critical care beds, ventilators, and other medical supplies available to treat COVID-19 (coronavirus) patients in Indiana.

The letter reads as follows:

28 March 2020

Dear Governor Holcomb,

Over the last two weeks, the consequences of this global pandemic have begun to severely impact the people of Monroe County.

As you surely know, this is a public health emergency. Hoosiers are making the necessary personal sacrifices to maintain social distance. Our seniors are making emotionally painful decisions to be separated from family and loved ones. Schools and houses of worship have been forced into online environments where many are left behind without access to reliable meals, necessary technologies, or dependable broadband. Paychecks are disappearing as hourly workers, those who live by tips, and small business owners are facing economic disaster. People are beginning to die in large numbers.

You also know the earnest, "tell-it-like-it-is" Hoosier sensibility. We deserve honest answers from our elected leaders, regardless of how difficult and frightening the realities may be. The people of Monroe County are demanding to know:

- 1) How many critical care beds do we have available?
- 2) How many ventilators do we have available?

3) What types of healthcare equipment to keep our medical professionals and frontline responders safe do we have available?

The answers to these questions may be grim, and yet, we know that when Hoosiers have the truth, we are resourceful and resilient. Give us this information so that we can problem-solve together.

Under the worst-case scenarios, difficult decisions regarding allocation of scarce resources may need to be made. Only with transparency around our current levels of preparedness can we begin to plan how to cope with limited capacities.

The people of Monroe County, and indeed all Hoosiers, need and deserve to know your plan for managing any shortfalls in medical supplies when the impacts of COVID-19 hit us the hardest in a few weeks. I implore you to act with transparency and compassion, especially with regard to our state's most vulnerable populations, during this harrowing moment in our history.

Most sincerely,  
Shelli Yoder

###

Shelli Yoder, Democratic candidate for Indiana State Senate District 40, served six years on the Monroe County Council, including two years as president and two years as vice president. She is a lecturer at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and previously led nonprofit organizations related to women's healthcare. She was the Democratic nominee for United States Congress in Indiana's Ninth Congressional District in 2012 and 2016. She lives in Bloomington with her spouse, Josh Perry, and their three children.