



December 10, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Jordan Hankwitz  
Director, Senate Business Office  
Binsfeld Office Building  
201 Townsend Street  
Lansing, Michigan, 48933  
[jhankwitz@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:jhankwitz@senate.michigan.gov) & [SenBusinessOffice@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBusinessOffice@senate.michigan.gov)

**Re: Request for Financial Records Related to Recent White House Visit**

Dear Director Hankwitz:

Pursuant to the Rule 72 of the Michigan Senate Rule 1.117(d),<sup>1</sup> American Oversight makes the following request for financial records.

On November 20, 2020, at least two members of the Michigan legislature visited President Donald Trump at the White House. Later that evening, multiple members of the Michigan delegation were seen having drinks at the Trump International Hotel, where they appeared to stay the night.<sup>2</sup>

**Requested Records**

American Oversight requests that your office respond to this request promptly and produce copies of the financial records requested below.

1. Records reflecting any and all expenditures of Senate-affiliated attendees of the Michigan House and Senate Legislative delegation's trip on or about November 20, 2020, to Washington, DC, including, but not limited to, records of any reimbursements submitted by or on behalf of any attendees.

Responsive records would include, but are not limited to, hotel or other lodging invoices or receipts; legislature-issued charge card or travel card reports; receipts from airlines, rental car, or other transportation companies; records reflecting the cost of government transportation; receipts or other

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 1.117(d), Michigan Senate Rules,  
<https://senate.michigan.gov/Senate%20Rules.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Lauren Windsor (@lawindsor), Twitter (Nov. 21, 2020, 9:31 AM),  
<https://twitter.com/lawindsor/status/1330156815909326850>; Lauren Windsor (@lawindsor), Twitter (Nov. 22, 2020, 1:57 PM),  
<https://twitter.com/lawindsor/status/1330586162457702401>.



records reflecting the cost of meals or refreshments; or records reflecting per diem payments for each elected official and/or staff member who attended.

2. To the extent not otherwise responsive to item 1 of this request, records reflecting any and all expenditures made at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC, including, but not limited to, records of any reimbursements submitted by or on behalf of all Senate-affiliated attendees of the trip on or about November 20, 2020, to Washington, DC. Responsive records would include, but are not limited to, records reflecting expenditures on hotel lodging, meals, beverages, or other incidental expenses purchased or incurred on the Trump International Hotel premises by any member of the Michigan legislature or staff member who attended the trip.

Please inform American Oversight if you anticipate the fees associated with complying with this request will exceed \$100.

American Oversight recognizes that, because the delegation's trip to Washington, DC, was so recent, the Senate Business Office may not yet possess all relevant receipts or information. We request that you respond as fully as possible as soon as practicable to this request and update us as you receive new responsive documents going forward.

### **Conclusion**

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your office on this request. If you do not

understand any part of this request, please contact Dan McGrath at [records@americanoversight.org](mailto:records@americanoversight.org) or 202.897.4213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin R. Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Austin R. Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight