



Taxpayers United of America

407 S. Dearborn Street • Suite 1170 • Chicago, IL 60605-1150
Phone: (312) 427-5128 • Fax: (312) 427-5139 • Cell: (312) 320-4101
Web: www.taxpayersunited.org • Email: christina@taxpayersunited.org

December 1, 2011

The Honorable Mitch Daniels
Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

Dear Governor Daniels,

I am Vice President of Taxpayers United of America, one of the largest taxpayer organizations in the U.S. On behalf of taxpayers everywhere, I commend you for the exceptional job you have done reviving the Indiana economy by slashing government spending and balancing the budget.

Last year we travelled to many states, researching and publicizing the lavish pensions received by retired government employees. In many cases, we found annual government pensions to be higher than actual salaries in the private sector!

In response to our FOIA requests, we have generally received the information requested, including the “Top 100” government salaries and “Top 100” government pensions. The degree of cooperation has varied from state-to-state. Some states have shown a cooperative attitude, while others have given us the requested data only after repeated requests.

Surprisingly, the bureaucrats who have shown the least cooperative attitude are those in Indiana. This is surprising in view of the bold statement of public policy contained in IC 5-14-3-1, regarding access to public records, viz, : “...*all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government...*”

Despite this stated policy, some data of great importance to taxpayers is simply not available. The Communications Director for the Indiana Public Retirement System stated, “*We are only allowed to give information regarding a person's name and their years of service in the fund. Anything else is prohibited by law for us to release*”.



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According to Jim Tobin, TUA President, “Indiana's been the most difficult state so far to gather pension information. They won't give us the pensions at all.” Bureaucrats cite House Enrolled Act 1285, signed by former Governor Joe Kernan. How can the limitations imposed by House Enrolled Act No. 1285 stand in view of the stated public policy contained in IC 5-14-3-1?

As Governor, you are in a position to help rectify this conflict in your laws. Please err on the side of full disclosure and urge any modification of the law to conform to your public policy. The taxpayers in your state are entitled to receive all of the information that is vital to their finances.

Please feel free to have your staff contact me so we can discuss this matter.

Thank you,

Christina Tobin, Vice President