

KEVIN J. BOYLE, MEMBER
172ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

226 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202172
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2172
PHONE: (717) 783-4944
FAX: (717) 772-9917

7420 FRANKFORD AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19136
PHONE: (215) 331-2600
FAX: (215) 708-3135

7801-A HASBROOK AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19111
PHONE: (215) 695-1016
FAX: (215) 695-1028

EMAIL: KBOYLE@PAHOUSE.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/KBOYLE



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

STATE GOVERNMENT, *DEMOCRATIC*
CHAIRMAN
POLICY, *VICE CHAIRMAN*
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

CAUCUSES

CANNABIS
CLIMATE
GREEN DOG
IRISH AMERICAN
PA SAFE CAUCUS
STUDENT DEBT

PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION
SOUTHEAST DELEGATION

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
16th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Attorney General Shapiro,

I serve as Democratic Chairperson of the House State Government Committee. Our body has met more often than any other standing committee in the Pennsylvania General Assembly as it considers legislation pertaining to reopening the state. It has also been the scene of several battles over how quickly to ease pandemic restrictions, with Democrats pushing for caution and Republicans encouraging a swifter reopening.

I and my Democratic colleagues discovered today, May 27th, that Representative Andrew Lewis, a Republican member of the House State Government Committee, tested positive for COVID-19 on May 20th. Both Representative Lewis and some of his Republican colleagues on the committee, including Representative Diamond, have reportedly been exposed to Covid-19 through contact with Representative Lewis and are presumed positive pending testing. Most Republican members have not been wearing masks in committee, including Representative Diamond.

After learning that a House Republican member was infected with COVID-19 Representative Lewis and the House Republican Leadership, including Speaker Mike Turzai and Leader Brian Cutler, failed to notify Democratic members and staff as to the possible COVID-19 infection introduced in the House State Government Committee and to the House floor. If it was known on May 20th that member(s) were either positive or in quarantine, we needed to know that on May 20th. Instead, we heard about it on May 27th from the Associated Press. We absolutely need to know more about what circumstances lead to this ill-advised decision by House Republican leadership. Why has it taken so long for House Republican leadership and Representative Lewis to notify

exposed House members and staff? Why did Democratic members first hear about this from the Associated Press, rather than from Representative Lewis or House Republican leadership? Crucially, we also need to know if any state laws or ethics rules were violated, and why CDC and Department of Health rules were not adhered to. There needs to be transparency about this. Without this notification, testing and contact tracing is beginning a week late – and exposed members are already potentially contagious and able to spread COVID-19 to members on the floor, family, and constituents in their districts.

I am writing today to request an investigation into the actions of Representative Lewis, Representative Diamond, House Republican Leadership, and any other potentially infected House Republican members who failed to duly notify Members and staff as required by the Department of Health and CDC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Representative Kevin J. Boyle

Democratic Chairperson

House State Government Committee