

## Letters: July 10, 2013

By: Frank B. Stahl, Fort Wayne, Indiana – July 10, 2013

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### State should rely less on feds

In a recent article in the Indianapolis Star, Tad DeHaven of the Cato Institute questions the nature of Indiana fiscal policy and Gov. Mike Pence, and how conservative both really are. DeHaven writes that 35 percent of Indiana's budget is federally funded. That's too high. Nothing is ever free, and in the case of federal funding this is especially true. Funding is a source of leverage for the federal government. When states do not comply with certain whims, the feds will threaten a stop the gravy train that is relied on heavily by the state

It is similar to the power that many parents hold over teens. As typical teens grow in to adulthood and become less reliant on the money and whims of their parents, they become increasingly independent even though they never lose their familial ties and obligations. Those who are not given the opportunity to grow as people find themselves unable to take care of themselves or deal with the harsher aspects of reality.

It is not a far reach to apply this to states with a paternalistic federal government that uses monetary leverage to control so much of the activities and possibilities for the state of Indiana. How can Indiana determine its best decisions for its citizens when it allows another party to have so much input and so much power? Being free from federal funding would mean a greater sense of independence and state identity.