



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Suite 1150 • Washington, DC 20425 www.usccr.gov

March 31, 2017

Mr. Robert E. Carter, Jr.
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Corrections
302 W. Washington Street, Room E-334
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Carter:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is pleased to transmit to your offices our Indiana State Advisory Committee's report *Civil Rights and the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Indiana*.

The Commission maintains 51 Advisory Committees - one for each state and the District of Columbia. The role of the Committees is to study civil rights issues in their communities and report findings and recommendations to the Commission. The Commission appreciates the Indiana State Advisory Committee's focused attention on whether the application of school disciplinary and juvenile justice policies in the State of Indiana may have had a discriminatory impact on students on the basis of race, color, sex, and/or disability, leading to a disproportionate incidence of law enforcement contact and criminal penalties.

The Commission requests that your office review the recommendations in the attached report, which can also be viewed at:

<http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/Civil-Rights%20and-the-School-to-Prison-Pipeline-in%20Indiana.pdf>

The recommendations can be found on pp. 46-48 of the report, as well as in the stand-alone "Recommendations" document attached to this letter. In response to these recommendations, we advise that you take the steps necessary to protect civil rights in your jurisdiction.

We have similarly asked State Assembly leadership, the Indiana Department of Public Instruction, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice to review the report's recommendations (copies attached).

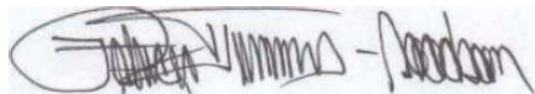
The Commission appreciates your consideration of the report's recommendations, in the hope of improving civil rights. We look forward to hearing from you after you have reviewed the recommendations in the report on what actions you will take in response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



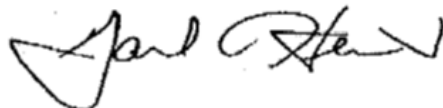
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Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Vice-Chair



Debo Adegbile, Commissioner



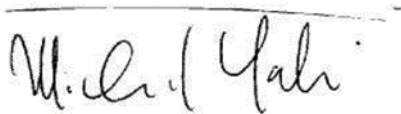
Gail Heriot, Commissioner



David Kladney, Commissioner



Karen K. Narasaki, Commissioner



Michael Yaki, Commissioner

- Encl. Indiana Advisory Committee Report
Recommendations to state of Indiana
Letter to State Assembly leadership
Letter to Indiana Department of Public Instruction
Letters to U.S. Departments of Education and Justice

March 31, 2017

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent
Indiana Department of Public Instruction
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Dr. McCormick:

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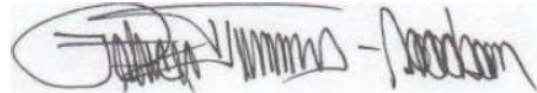
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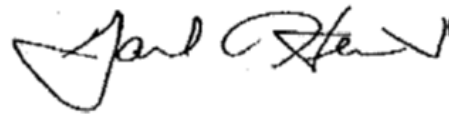
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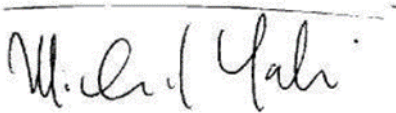
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March 31, 2017

Mr. David C. Long
President Pro Tempore
Indiana State Senate
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785

Mr. Brian Bosma
Speaker
Indiana House of Representatives
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Dear President Long and Speaker Bosma:

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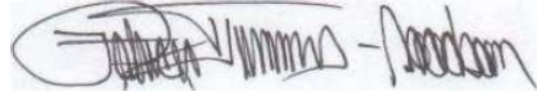
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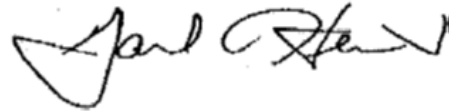
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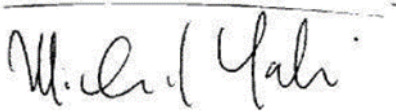
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March 31, 2017

Ms. Sandra Battle
Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100

Dear Ms. Battle:

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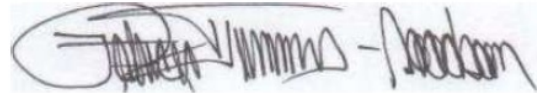
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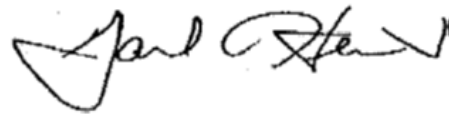
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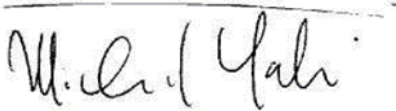
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- Letter to U.S. Department of Justice

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General

Tom Wheeler
Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

Eileen Garry
Acting Administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Av. NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions, Mr. Wheeler, and Ms. Garry:

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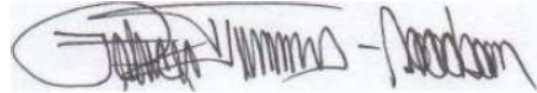
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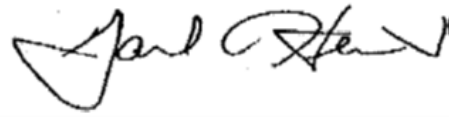
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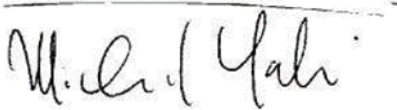
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