



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 22, 2017

### **Summaries of new laws pertaining to youth now available**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY) has produced two outlines of the laws impacting youth that were created during the 2017 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly, including the state’s only voting record tracking each legislator’s votes on the various bills.

The [Indiana General Assembly Voting Record on Youth-Related Legislation](#) and the [2017 Summary of Selected Children’s Legislation](#), both of which are produced annually, are designed to inform anyone interested in children’s issues about the priorities that have been considered in the General Assembly. MCCOY believes that these documents play a vital role in not only updating professionals, parents and others interested in youth issues about what laws are being created, but also informing them about how their elected officials are supporting youth.

“Children’s issues are always at the forefront of each legislative session, with almost 250 bills being introduced in 2017,” said Mindi Goodpaster, MCCOY’s director of public policy and advocacy. “Because MCCOY believes that the state needs to make sound policy decisions regarding youth, I am present at the Statehouse engaging legislators on the issues and helping them navigate best practices and methods to create policies that are in the best interests of children. Legislators also need to hear from their constituents about the potential impact of these decisions, and the legislative summaries help inform the constituents about that impact.”

MCCOY’s biggest success of this legislative session was the passage of the country’s most comprehensive suicide prevention law, House Enrolled Act 1430 - Suicide Awareness and Prevention. This legislation involved over one-and-a-half years of research into policy best practices, as well as participation from engaged stakeholders from across Indiana who work in suicide prevention. MCCOY also worked on issues pertaining to human trafficking, youth substance abuse prevention and license reciprocity for mental health professionals. MCCOY directly engaged in the drafting and lobbying of the following bills:

- SEA 59 - Professional Licensing
- SB 62 - School Substance Abuse Prevention Pilot Program and Fund
- SB 63 - Community Mental Health Center Telemedicine Pilot
- SB 166 - Vacating Convictions of Trafficked Persons
- SEA 355 - Child Abuse Education and Policies



- SB 435 - Mental Health Education and Screenings
- SB 506 - Suicide Prevention Programming
- HEA 1218 - Juvenile Justice
- HEA 1391 - Social Worker Licenses
- HEA 1430 - Suicide Awareness and Prevention

“Advocating and lobbying on behalf of youth and youth-serving professionals are some of MCCOY’s most important efforts,” said John Brandon, president and executive director of MCCOY. “We believe strongly that nonpartisan advocates who focus on youth issues make a major difference in the lives of young people. I am thrilled by the number of positive laws that were passed this year, and I encourage all families, youth service professionals, community leaders and youth to take a look at the issues those laws will address. We need more voices to speak out to make our community a better place for children and youth to grow up.”

Both documents can be accessed online at no cost. To view the 2017 Voting Record, click [here](#). To view the 2017 Legislative Summary, click [here](#). To learn more about MCCOY’s advocacy efforts, click [here](#).

*The Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc. (MCCOY) is the youth services intermediary for central Indiana whose mission is to champion the positive development of youth through leadership on key issues and support of the youth worker community. MCCOY’s vision is that every young person in central Indiana has opportunities to thrive, learn, engage and contribute.*

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Contact: Jacie Farris, Communications Director  
Phone: 317-921-1266  
Email: [jacie.farris@mccooyouth.org](mailto:jacie.farris@mccooyouth.org) [www.mccooyouth.org](http://www.mccooyouth.org)