



1375 West 16th Street  
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[www.mccoyouth.org](http://www.mccoyouth.org)

January 27, 2021

Chairman Timothy Brown  
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means  
200 W. Washington Street  
State House, House Chamber  
Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Dear Chairman Brown and Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means,

MCCOY and the undersigned organizations support House Bill 1008, "Student learning recovery grant program."

This past year has shown us the strength and resilience possessed by young people and those who serve them. However, studies have shown that the average white student has suffered up to nine months of learning loss, but students of color have been impacted more severely with as many as 12 months (study by McKinsey & Company, Dec. 2020). Past research shows that young people who fail to achieve academic competence during their school-attending years are more likely, as adults, to end up in low-paying jobs. They have higher rates of substance use problems, poorer physical and mental health... They need more public support than youth who achieve grade level mastery.

In addition to academic skill losses, Hoosier youth have experienced significant social and emotional skill losses. We are pleased that HB1008 includes community-based organizations in the list of eligible programs participating in efforts to address learning loss among Indiana young people – especially this past year. Our community-based youth development programs are effective with compassionate, adept caregivers that provide social and interpersonal-building activities. These programs safely offer interactive and culture learning experiences in supportive environments.

Addressing social-emotional gaps will ensure that the academic remediation done by our educational partners will be even more effective. As our economy recovers, youth programs are key components in the support structure our community has for working families.

We thank you for your support for House Bill 1008 and ask for you to please vote "yes" when this bill comes to the House Committee on Ways and Means for discussion.

Sincerely,

MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth)



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Bridge Builder Strategies  
Indiana Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs  
Girls STEM Institute  
Girl Scouts of Central Indiana  
Horizons at St. Richard's Episcopal School  
The Journey  
Girls Inc. of Wayne County  
Westminster Neighborhood Services, INC  
AYS- At Your School  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana

John Brandon, President and CEO, MCCOY  
Sarah Williams, Public Policy and Advocacy Director, MCCOY  
Kayleigh Smith  
Sara Twining, MCCOY Board Member  
Teresa A. Bennett, Indiana Citizen  
Latosha Rowley, Educator  
Dr. Mike Simmons, Founder and CEO of Bridge Builder Strategies  
Lana Taylor, Executive Director of Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Christina Cheeks, Service Line Administrator  
Sylvester Kuma  
Renee Barlow, Director of Family Engagement for Girls STEM Institute  
Albert J. Allen, MD, PhD, Physician Scientist  
Grace Moore, MCCOY Public Policy Committee  
Danielle Shockey, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Indiana  
AmySue Bacon, Executive Director of Horizons at St. Richard's Episcopal School  
Erin C. Tomlinson  
Mignon Pryor, Youth Enrichment Services for the Julian Center  
Janet Wakefield, CEO of The Journey  
Iliana Enriquez, Program Facilitator and Coordinator for the Peace Learning Center  
Derrick Carnes, Communications & Engagement Coordinator for the Indiana Afterschool Network  
Kareema Boykin, Trauma Counselor  
Mary Kapcoe  
Leigh Crawford, Outreach Coordinator  
Tim Nation, Executive Director of the Peace Learning Center  
Brooke Shoopman  
Jordan Williams, Engineer  
Darcy Palmer-Shultz, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana



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