



January 19, 2012

Indiana Legislators  
Indiana State Capitol Building  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Legislators,

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) writes you this letter to ask that you vote against House Bill 1367. Since 1880, the NAD has been the nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America.

House Bill 1367 does not add any benefit to the existing system of excellent education and comprehensive services for deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana. Rather this bill seeks to remove the outreach services from its current home at the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD), without any evidence supporting the need for such removal. Thousands of parents and their deaf children have benefited tremendously from the neutral, experienced and expert staff of the existing outreach center at ISD. House Bill 1367 is a needless reinvention of the wheel, requiring significant wasteful expenditures in a time of austerity. The bill would require relocation of files, resources, information, and equipment as well as immense staffing changes.

More importantly, the bill is being proposed with great urgency under time constraints without a full discussion. Such circumstances indicate the lack of full transparency necessary for a true and accurate analysis of what this bill would do for the parents and children of Indiana. There is no indication that the proposed outreach center would be fair and comprehensive. As a legislator, it is your duty to ensure that all citizens particularly children receive a fair chance in life. Deaf and hard of hearing children do not need to be further disadvantaged by an unseemly outreach center that was hastily created by Indiana legislators without careful thought as to why it should replace one that is already serving this population well.

The NAD urges you to protect the education and future of deaf and hard of hearing children by voting against House Bill 1367.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Rosenblum  
Chief Executive Officer