



1375 West 16th Street
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February 15, 2021

The Honorable Ronald Grooms, Chair
The Honorable David Niezgodski, Author of SB 259
The Honorable Jon Ford, Author of SB 259
Members of the Senate Committee on Family and Children Services
200 W. Washington Street
State House, Room 233
Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Dear Chairman Grooms, Senator Niezgodski, Senator Ford, and Members of the Senate Committee on Family and Children Services:

MCCOY and the undersigned organizations and individuals write to you today in support of Senate Bill 259, "Parents with Disabilities," which is scheduled for a hearing on Monday morning in the Senate Committee on Family and Children Services. If passed, this bill will reinforce much needed protections for parents with disabilities, recognize the importance of family and children, and support parenting rights for all caring parents regardless of their ability.

We support the bill's implementation of disability awareness training at the Department of Child Services led by a person with a disability. This added training will help destigmatize mental and physical disabilities and prevent further instances of disability discrimination, which could result in the unnecessary separation of a parent from their child.

We believe in supporting all families, regardless of disability and ensuring that any instances of disability discrimination are prevented through proper awareness training and understanding of the importance of keeping a family unit together. When this bill comes to your committee for a vote, please vote "yes" to support all families regardless of disability.

Sincerely,

MCCOY
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Mary Boggs, Concerned Citizen
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Carly Brandon, Social Worker
John Brandon, President and CEO, MCCOY
Derrick Carnes, Concerned Citizen
Annemarie Chastin, Concerned Citizen
Christina Cheeks, Service Line Administrator
Leigh Crawford, Concerned Citizen
Tiffany L. Davis, Injury Prevention Program Coordinator
Gabrielle Douglas, Concerned Citizen
Vincent G. Failla, Concerned Citizen and Former Youth Worker
Bethany Fletcher, Community-Based Case Management
Jim Grim, Concerned Citizen
Corinne Herndon, Youth Program Coordinator
Karen Jackson-Gray, Concerned Citizen
Donald Martin, Concerned Citizen
Toby Leonard Charles Miller, Concerned Citizen
Joseph Moheban, Concerned Citizen
Khaula Muradha, Associate Vice Chancellor and Faculty, IUPUI
Cynthia Muse, Concerned Citizen
Maryam Olaletan, Advisor, Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (IndyMYLC)
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