Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Working Together for Student Success

July 20, 2017

Senator Joe Donnelly
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Donnelly;

First of all, I hope this letter finds you well and know your service to Indiana is appreciated. Secondly, the reason for my correspondence is to share my concerns regarding the proposed federal Medicaid cuts. Over 200 Indiana school districts rely upon Medicaid funding in order to best serve our students with the greatest needs. The fiscal impact Indiana schools faced under the Medicaid cuts outlined in H.R. 1628 was projected to be $2.7 million per year by 2026 and $3.6 million per year by 2036. Even though the bill has collapsed, the push to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement and with many unknown factors continues to raise local concerns. Indiana school-based Medicaid claims could be greatly impacted.

In schools across Indiana, Medicaid funding assists with providing services and equipment for children with disabilities who have specific healthcare needs. Medicaid funding benefits two-thirds of Indiana districts by supplying the funds necessary for preventive and comprehensive health service programs. These programs include health screenings to identify vision, hearing, and mental health issues, transportation, nursing services, language programs, assistive technology, occupational, speech, and physical therapists, school psychologists, and other services which assist in the management of chronic health conditions; such as, asthma and diabetes.

If Medicaid funding is cut or eliminated without a phase-in, many Indiana schools will be placed in the untenable position of finding replacement funds. Such action will unquestionably result in budget cuts impacting educational programs and opportunities for all students.

As the healthcare discussion continues, I urge you to protect Medicaid funding. As always, I am grateful for your willingness to listen and reflect upon Indiana's data, opportunities, and needs. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 317-232-6610.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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