



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

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AACI Responds to Some Reform Organizations Misrepresenting Black Community Position on HB 1423

Recent media coverage and public commentary from some advocates of HB 1423 have suggested that African Americans are not opposed to legislation that would make significant changes to Indianapolis Public Schools. African Americans are not a monolith, but claims made by organizations and institutions with little or no authentic connection to the Black community do not reflect the public record and are deeply concerning.

The African American Coalition of Indianapolis, together with our member organizations, has consistently and publicly expressed serious concerns about HB 1423, particularly provisions that would remove key responsibilities from the elected IPS School Board and transfer them to a new and undefined governing entity. Removing local, voter-elected oversight from a district that primarily serves Black and Brown students without clear accountability or community consent raises serious concerns about transparency, governance, and trust. While there is broad agreement on the importance of improving student outcomes and ensuring responsible use of resources, many critical details in HB 1423 remain unresolved.

We are also concerned about the practical implications of establishing a new governing board while IPS may need to pursue an operating referendum this year. It is unclear how a newly created entity could be staffed, organized, and fully operational within the necessary timeframe. Identifying, vetting, and appointing board members alone would require significant time and careful deliberation, time that the district and its students may not have.

Our community deserves honest engagement, democratic decision-making, and solutions that strengthen public accountability. Any serious effort to improve outcomes for IPS students must begin by listening to the families, educators, and community members who are most directly impacted.

About AACI

The African American Coalition of Indianapolis (AACI), established in 2004, is a collective of over 20 civic-minded organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for African Americans in the Greater Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. Through policy research, civic engagement, education, and community programming, AACI empowers individuals to actively participate in the political process and drive positive change. By collaborating with diverse civic, religious, professional, social service, and civil rights groups, AACI strives to create a thriving, equitable community where every individual has the opportunity to succeed, contribute, and lead. Learn more at <https://aacindianapolis.org/>.