

Press Release



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Hear Indiana applauds Governor Mitch Daniel's appointment of new board members to Indiana School for the Deaf.

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Indianapolis—Hear Indiana applauds Governor Mitch Daniels for his thoughtful selection of four new, well-qualified Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) board members, including Ann Reifel, Lucy Witte, Mary Susan Buhner, and Scott Rigney.

Hear Indiana's Naomi Horton released the following statement:

“These four new members represent the growing diversity of 21st century parents and children living with hearing loss. The new members help bring the ISD board into compliance with the regulations for board composition as outlined by Indiana Statute (IC 20-22-3).

“168 years after the founding of the Indiana School for the Deaf, more parents, educators and legislators are increasingly realizing that medical innovation is ushering in a new day for deaf education. When hearing parents learn that their deaf child can hear with the help of modern medical innovation, many leap at the chance. Others choose sign language. Both of are effective ways of communicating, and Hear Indiana continues to advocate on behalf of parents' rights to do what parents have always done—pursued what they felt was the best communication option for their children.

“Today less than 20% of all families choose traditional American Sign Language, the remaining 80% want their children to enjoy the full range of sounds and to be able to listen and speak. Hear Indiana applauds Governor Daniels and the Indiana School for the Deaf for recognizing that parents want access to new options, and we will continue working together on improving the outcomes for all deaf and hard of hearing Hoosier students.

There are a total of 2,400 students in Indiana public schools who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2010, about 14% of these students (i.e., 336) attended the Indiana School for

the Deaf (ISD), which was established in 1843 as a residential institution for deaf children. The remaining 86% attend their neighborhood schools with a variety of support services.

For further comment, please contact executive director, Naomi Horton, at 317-828-0211 or Naomi.Horton@HearIndiana.org.

About Hear Indiana

Hear Indiana is the non-profit Indiana chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (www.agbell.org). For over forty years Hear Indiana has helped children with hearing loss achieve their fullest potential as independent members of society.

Hear Indiana empowers and supports individuals and families with hearing loss who communicate through listening and spoken language. We believe in early detection, intensive amplification, and ongoing intervention. Hear Indiana offers informational resources, educational programming, support for families and professionals, and advocacy in areas related to listening and speaking.

For more information visit <http://www.hearindiana.org>.