



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 10, 2010

**INDIANA PTA TAKES ACTION DAY AT HOME AND ON CAPITOL HILL**

**(Washington D.C.)** Several people on our Indiana PTA team are in Washington DC for the National PTA Legislative Conference this week. On Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 six Indiana PTA board members will make Indiana’s voice heard on Capitol Hill. They will be visiting with Indiana’s Federal legislators and encouraging them to support education and parent engagement in Indiana and across the country.

**We need help! March 11th is going to be a PTA Takes Action Day.** While our Indiana PTA team is present on the Hill, we want them to hear Indiana PTA’s voice of 30,000 members on important education issues. We are asking that everyone CALL or E-MAIL Indiana’s federal legislators on **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. We want to blitz Capitol Hill with YOUR voice to coincide with Indiana PTAs visit to Washington D.C.

Indiana PTA Federal Legislative Chair, Dee Jones, encourages all Indiana residents to contact their legislators about any number of education issues. “It is said that if we don't expect much, we won't get much,” Jones said. “Now is the time to let our legislators know what we expect. As I reflect on decisions being made I am reminded that the legislators say they don't hear from their constituents at home. If they don't hear from us they don't know how we feel or think about issues. This is our opportunity to let our voices be heard on behalf of the children, schools and communities that we serve.” A list of some of the top federal education issues is also attached.

The Indiana PTA Itinerary is below, and everyone is asked to contact the legislators listed on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

9:00 AM Representative Baron Hill Phone: (202) 225-5315 Email: <a href="#">Webform HERE</a>	11:30 AM Senator Evan Bayh Phone: (202) 224-5623 Email: <a href="#">Webform HERE</a>	They will also be meeting Representative Mark Souder Phone: (202) 225-4436 Email: <a href="#">Webform HERE</a>
10:00AM Senator Richard Lugar Phone: (202) 224-4814 Email: <a href="#">Webform HERE</a>	2:00 PM Representative Pete Visclosky Phone: (202) 225-2461 Email: <a href="#">Webform HERE</a>	

The Indiana PTA team will also have the privilege of hearing First Lady, Michelle Obama as the keynote speaker on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> as part of the National PTA Legislative Conference.

\*The mission of the Indiana PTA is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children, and to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children and encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

###

**Contact Information:**

Indiana PTA  
<http://www.indianapta.org>

Dee Jones, Federal Legislative  
Chair  
[djones@indianapta.org](mailto:djones@indianapta.org)  
219-902-2159

Nichole Thomas, PR  
[nthomas@indianapta.org](mailto:nthomas@indianapta.org)  
260-418-7388

Tina Hartman, President  
[Tina.hartman@indianapta.org](mailto:Tina.hartman@indianapta.org)

Some Important Issues to Consider:

### **1. SUPPORT FOR PARENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTERS (PIRCs)**

PTA is greatly concerned about the consolidation and proposed elimination of the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) in the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget. There is at least one PIRC in every state and territory. This program elimination affects all PTAs and parents. Under this consolidation, the sole funding stream for family engagement would be redirected to charter schools. Placing PIRCs under this fund means that there is no longer a dedicated funding stream for family engagement and PIRCs will not be able reach all families with children in public schools. **Elimination of PIRCs negatively impacts PTAs, schools and parents.**

Why PIRCs matter:

- They provide schools and districts with tools to effectively partner with parents.
- They empower parents to advocate for their children and school reform.
- They provide training and professional development on effective family engagement to districts and school staff.
- They collaborate with state PTAs to engage all public school parents in their children's education.
- They train family engagement coordinators in schools.
- They convene parent leadership academies to equip parents with skills needed to help their children to succeed.

Annually, PIRCs served over 16.4 million parents by connecting them to their schools to improve their child's education. Parents need PIRCs. You can help! Please urge your legislators not to eliminate PIRCs. (Read a more detailed description of PIRCs on [HERE](#) on our website)

### **2. REAUTHORIZE THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)**

ESEA authorizes funds and outlines provisions to support education initiatives, such as:

- After-school programs and school social workers
- Professional development for teachers
- State assessments
- Parent and family engagement

The reauthorization process is a golden opportunity that advocates get every five years to educate Congress on changes needed in the law. PTA is working with Congress and the Department of Education to address the widely recognized challenges posed by NCLB, including strengthening its parent involvement provisions and safeguarding the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs), which have been consolidated with charter school programming in the President's FY 11 budget request. Consolidation not only directs funding away from the program, but also signals PIRCs removal from law. **ESEA is an important law and is moving on the Hill. Now is the opportunity for advocates to tell Congress to improve this principal federal law to ensure that all children receive a high-quality education.**