

NEWS RELEASE For immediate release January 4, 2016 Media contact: Melissa Wojnaroski Civil Rights Analyst Regional Office (312) 353-8311 <u>mwojnaroski@usccr.gov</u>

Indiana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and the School to Prison Pipeline in Indiana

The Indiana Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting to hear testimony regarding the application of school disciplinary and juvenile justice policies in the State, and the extent to which these policies may have a discriminatory impact on the basis of race, color, and/or sex.

The first meeting will take place Wednesday January 20th, 2016 from 11:00am -12:30pm EST via web conference. Committee members will hear testimony from national experts and federal officials. To listen to the online conference by phone (audio only):

- Dial: 888-417-8533
- Conference ID # 2138345

To join the conference online (visual), please register at: <u>https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kwf2s53iu6ux&eom</u>, or contact the Commission's Midwest Regional Office at (312) 353-8311. Members of the public will be invited to speak at the conclusion of this conference.

The second meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17th, 2016 at the Ivy Tech Community College Event Center, 2820 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 from 8:00am to 5:00pm EST. The Committee will hear testimony from community members, advocates, education and legal professionals, and government officials in the state. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum session, scheduled to take place from 4:15 to 4:45pm.

"The Committee looks forward to hearing public testimony," said committee chair Diane Clements-Boyd. "It is imperative that affected families, education proponents, and researchers participate in this hearing."

Both meetings are open to the public. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional office 10 days prior to the meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to <u>mwojnaroski@usccr.gov</u> by March 18th, 2016. The Indiana Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <u>http://www.usccr.gov</u>.