



SENATOR
LONNIE M. RANDOLPH
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 2

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 12, 2010

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Randolph reappointed to group focused on reducing childhood poverty

Commission on Childhood Poverty developing plan to cut poverty rate among children in half

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Senate President Pro Tem David Long (R-Fort Wayne), upon recommendation by Senate Democrat Leader Vi Simpson (D-Ellettsville), has reappointed State Senator Lonnie M. Randolph (D-East Chicago) as a member of the Commission on Childhood Poverty, the [Commission on Courts](#) and the [Regulatory Flexibility Committee](#).

The Commission on Childhood Poverty was established in 2009 to evaluate the costs and effects of childhood poverty and provide a plan to reduce childhood poverty in Indiana by 50 percent by the year 2020. According to the latest figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2008 childhood poverty rate in Indiana was 17.9 percent, translating to more than 270,000 Hoosier children living in poverty. Childhood poverty steadily increased in Indiana from 2000 to 2008.

The commission's membership includes a list of child advocates, social services specialists, educators, health care specialists and state officials. The commission is expected to submit an interim report of findings and recommendations by December 31, 2010. A final report is expected by the end of 2011 that will include findings and recommendations of the commission as well as an implementation plan for meeting the reduced childhood poverty goal. The proposal will include plans for improving affordable housing, child care, early education programs, after school programs and mentoring programs, access to affordable health care, workforce training, education opportunities, and streamlining of services through public and private agencies providing human services to low income children and families.

Other topics assigned for review by other committees and commissions this year by the General Assembly include the following:

Economic development: The newly formed Committee on Economic Development will study available economic development tools and how Indiana's tax laws can encourage business development.

Health care: A report on the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will be presented to the Health Finance Commission by the non-partisan state Legislative Services Agency. The impact of federal health care reform on the Healthy Indiana Plan and other state programs will also be reviewed by the Health Finance Commission.

Renter safety: Crime victims' ability to terminate leases under certain circumstances will be reviewed by the Commission on Courts.

The General Assembly annually convenes interim study committees and permanent commissions to conduct in-depth research and analysis of issues affecting the state. Recommendations from these committees are often the basis for future legislation. More information about committee topics, schedules and agendas is available online at www.in.gov/legislative/interim.

For more information on Sen. Randolph, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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