

STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEES
Courts and Criminal Code, Chair
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Government and Regulatory Reform

December 9, 2019

The Honorable Chief Justice Loretta Rush
Indiana Supreme Court
200 W. Washington Street
Room 311
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Chief Justice Rush,

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center has offered their support to improve Indiana's juvenile justice system by collaborating with the Commission on Improving the Status of Children. This partnership would entail a financial commitment from the State of \$50,000 so that CSG can conduct a preliminary assessment of Indiana's juvenile justice system, particularly focusing on data collection. As the Chair of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children, your support is paramount to the success of this endeavor, which will inform future system-wide reforms to ensure that Indiana is best serving our youth. Please find attached to this letter a detailed description of CSG's scope of work.

Once a partnership has been finalized, CSG will be poised to work with the Commission throughout 2020. In order to include all necessary stakeholders, I propose the creation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force under the Commission to partially include members of the Data Sharing and Mapping Committee as well as members of the Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth Task Force. Members of the General Assembly should co-chair the Task Force in order to provide legislative insight. If it pleases the Executive Committee, I would be honored to co-chair the Task Force along with Sen. Michael Crider, who has expressed a committed interest in the project.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. I appreciate your support of this partnership.

Sincerely,



Wendy McNamara
State Representative
House District 76