



Statement of Opposition to Indiana Senate Bill 167 (ANTI-TRUTH TELLING)
President Chrystal Ratcliffe
Greater Indianapolis NAACP
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The Greater Indianapolis NAACP joins many other terribly concerned community organizations in opposition to Indiana SB 167. If it passes it will hurt children, teachers and unknowing communities in the state of Indiana. The NAACP works for equity and opportunity for all children but especially for those that cannot easily fight for themselves. Black and Brown children should be afforded the same opportunity to learn, which is proven to be bolstered by learning in an environment where the child and their culture are appreciated.¹ Not only does SB 167 seek to in effect reverse laws recently enacted that require Indiana schools and school districts to work to increase cultural intelligence, this bill literally makes it against the law to tell the truth.²

This legislation was not created based on Indiana concern but is unimaginatively a copy of bad old national policy that was contrived to muddy political waters and divide people. It does not take into consideration the impact it will have on Indiana teachers, parents and students that are already dealing with the complexities of educating the children of our community, in the midst of Covid-19.

Our community stands up for children, with strong allies, and against SB 167 as we appeal to greater sensibility and careful handling by Indiana legislators - of this terrible bill that can extinguish hope for so many. As our global community mourns the loss of Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, we remember how he led a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" to deal with the truth of Apartheid and the hurt and harm of their painful past.³ SB 167 is an Anti-Truth Bill, sadly, while the truth may be the only real, authentic way to reach reconciliation, civility, peace, common-ground and a better future for all.

Reconciliation is not "about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back and turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth." *Bishop Desmond Tutu*

¹https://b9423f67-93b3-44f1-ae42-f33e05fe9eb8.filesusr.com/ugd/e80d1a_dd18e438a9c44a00955bf34b943e8d91.pdf

²<https://statepolicies.nasbe.org/health/categories/social-emotional-climate/professional-development-for-cultural-competency/indiana>

³ <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/tutu-and-his-role-truth-reconciliation-commission>