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NAACP Thanks General Assembly for Passing Lead in Schools Legislation

INDIANAPOLIS -- March 12, 2020 -- The Indiana General Assembly this week passed [House Bill 1265](#), sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Jackson, which would require testing of drinking water for lead in all Indiana school buildings by 2023. If levels of lead in drinking water exceed safe levels (15 parts per billion), the school building administrators must take action to reduce the lead levels to meet federal standards. The House on March 10 voted 93-0 to approve of changes made to the bill in the Senate. It now moves to Gov. Eric Holcomb for his signature.

In response, Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch President Chrystal Ratcliffe issued the following statement:

"The NAACP extends its thanks to Representative Jackson and to the many co-sponsors of House Bill 1265, which will help ensure that drinking water in our schools is safe for children to drink. This legislation shows that Hoosiers of all colors and political beliefs can work together when the health and well-being of our children is at stake. Our work is not done. We urge Gov. Holcomb to sign the bill and ask legislative leaders to appoint a summer study committee to review the issues raised by Sen. Jean Breaux in [Senate Bill 285](#). Sen. Breaux's legislation would have required the State Department of Health to take all necessary steps to increase the number of Medicaid-covered children who are screened for lead poisoning during their well-baby checkups."

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About NAACP: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.