



Local 2209

*Hello from Holli*

April 12, 2021



## ***HUNTINGTON COUNTY TEACHERS UNION***

Many of you who follow local news may have heard recently that the proposed state budget would contain a provision expanding Indiana's funding of the school voucher program. The Huntington County Teacher's Union purchased a full-page advertisement in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette on March 29th and ran a petition to not allow this provision to pass. A copy of that letter is on the back side of this report.

The Teacher's Union has reached out to me to see if any of our UAW brothers and sisters would be able to join them in their picket this Wednesday, April 14th at 4:30PM at Andy Zay's Leasing, located at the corner of Highway 24 and Broadway Street in Huntington.

If you can stand with the teachers, scan the QR code below.

A red and white reminder poster for an informational picket. The text reads: 'Reminder!', 'HCTA Informational Picket', 'April 14th 4:30', 'Location: Corner of 24 and Broadway', and 'Scan to register!' with a QR code and an arrow pointing left.

**Reminder!**

HCTA Informational Picket

April 14th  
4:30

Location:  
Corner of 24 and Broadway

Scan to register!

In Solidarity,

*Holly Murphy*

# PETITION—HALT THE BAIT & SWITCH

FROM: *Huntington Classroom Teacher's Association*

TO: *Andy Zay, Indiana State Senator, Dist. 17, Daniel Leonard, Indiana State Representative House Dist. 50, Travis Holdman, Indiana Majority Caucus Chair & State Senator, Dist. 19, and residents of Huntington County, IN*

At a time when public schools have been doing double duty to meet the diverse and complicated needs of educating the children of our community during a pandemic, ***the Indiana General Assembly is working to divert much needed public funds away from the Huntington County Community School Corporation and send it to private schools.***

A recent report by the Indiana Teacher Pay Commission estimated the cost to raise educator pay to a commensurate state-wide average level would cost upwards of \$600 Million. Moreover, that amount did not account for the necessary monetary increase needed to hire and maintain educational support personnel such as teaching assistants, clinic assistants, recess monitors.

Legislatures have told school districts that they want to provide them with certainty, and those same legislators say they understand schools have had to adapt quickly to ensure continued student learning in the face of an unprecedented public health crisis. But, that is all lip-service when ***crucial funding is being diverted away from the 93% of Indiana's students that attend traditional public schools.***

The Indiana General Assembly is considering HB 1001, HB 1005 and SP 413—bills that dramatically expand the largest private school voucher program in the nation and create a new private school debit-card program (ESAs).

***Taxpayers need to know that the suggested increased in funding is disproportionate, with voucher programs being heavily favored.*** Though voucher students only make up 7% of Indiana's student population, the voucher program is getting 30% of the proposed increase. This leaves public schools, which carry 93% of the students in the state, receiving 70% of the funding increase. Furthermore, we believe this legislation does not give choice to families, but to private schools—private schools that can choose who they accept or deny. ***We believe public funds should only be used for education that is open and inclusive to all Indiana students.***

Voucher funding to private schools impairs Indiana's constitutional obligation to fund a uniform system of schools where tuition SHALL BE FREE. ***These private schools are not accountable to taxpayers, are largely exempt from an extraordinary array of federal and state mandates that are imposed on public schools, and are not even required to employ licensed teachers.***

This proposed budget will not allow schools to make the needed fiscal improvements. In fact, it won't even keep up with rising insurance costs. Educators and taxpayers were led to believe this session would move forward the improvements to school funding to support teacher pay.—why the bait and switch?

***We strongly oppose the proposed legislation and urge our local legislators to oppose it an any other legislation that directs funding away from Indiana public schools.***

A red-bordered sign with a white background. At the top, it says "Reminder!" in large black font. Below that, on the left, is a small red outline of Indiana with "HCTA" written inside. To the right of the outline, it says "Informational Picket" in black. Below that, it says "April 14th" and "4:30" in large black font. Underneath, it says "Location: Corner of 24 and Broadway" in smaller black font. At the bottom, there is a QR code on the left and the text "Scan to register!" on the right, with a black arrow pointing from the text to the QR code.