



**PROBATION OFFICERS
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA, INC.
(POPAI)
P.O. Box 44148, Indianapolis, IN 46244**

February 10, 2014

RE: HB 1268 Probation and Community Corrections Treatment.

The Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana (POPAI) thanks Rep. Steuerwald for his leadership on the "Recidivism Working Group" of the Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee. POPAI was privileged to be included in this Work Group, represented by POPAI President Linda Brady. HB 1268 was one of the most important proposals to come out of the Recidivism Working Group.

This bill establishes a REQUIREMENT that the Indiana Judicial Center, the Department of Correction, and the Department of Mental Health work together prior to awarding grant funding for services to offenders for the purpose of more effectively addressing the treatment needs of offenders and to avoid duplication of services.

HB 1268 also makes minor but extremely important changes to **IC 11-13-2-1 State Aid for Probation Services**. This law has been on the books for decades but has only been funded by the legislature one time. HB 1268 lays the groundwork for future funding of probation services in this state.

Although this is not a state budget year, HB 1268 puts in place a funding mechanism that will assist local probation departments to develop evidence based services, programs, and practices that have been proven to reduce probationers' risk for recidivism.

HB 1268 also puts in place a potential funding mechanism for **SB 171 Community Supervision** which is a bill that requires a coordinated system of community supervision to improve the efficiency and coordination of offender services within a county. Thanks to Sen. Young for his work on SB 171 and his openness to input from POPAI and other groups.

POPAI supports both SB 171 and HB 1268 as important first steps to prepare for the implementation of HEA 1006. However, there continues to be much work ahead. Presently there are no financial resources allocated toward either SB 171 or HB 1268. For these initiatives to be successful at the local level, there must be financial support from the state.

POPAI urges the legislature to support and provide funding to HB 1268.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Linda Brady, President, Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana (POPAI)