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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION RECRUITS SUPPORT FOR DETROIT LITERACY LAWSUIT APPEAL

Newark, Del. (December 4, 2018) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) cosponsored an *amicus curiae* brief filed last week with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit to support the appeal in the class action litigation on behalf of students in Detroit public schools in Michigan.

ILA was an early supporter in the initial federal case, *Gary B. v. Snyder*, which asserts that deliberate failings on behalf of the state of Michigan and state education officials have led to inadequate literacy instruction for Detroit's students, a denial that the plaintiffs assert violates their constitutional right.

At the center of the case: the question of whether literacy should be regarded as a constitutionally protected right. The purpose of this latest amicus brief: to request that the court reverse its earlier decision to dismiss the case.

ILA worked with the Advocates for Literacy Coalition and Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education, to recruit more support from experts across the education space for this latest brief and therefore provide a wider level of solidarity for the proposition that literacy should indeed be constitutionally protected. There are 17 backers to the brief, including the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

"We have long argued that literacy is a human right and therefore should be regarded as a constitutional right," says Bernadette Dwyer, president of the Board of ILA. "We vowed to continue our support, and we're happy to sign on to the appellate amicus brief in what may well turn out to be a landmark case."

Also filed last week was the official motion for an appeal on behalf of the plaintiffs, which can be [found here](#) along with multiple other amicus briefs.

"This is a case that has the potential to improve the lives of students in Detroit and beyond," says Dan Mangan, ILA's director of Public Affairs. "What they are doing isn't just about their school system. They are fighting for literacy to be a constitutionally mandated right for every child, everywhere, regardless of zip code. ILA is proud to stand among the multiple organizations in this brief that are urging the court to reverse its decision and see this case move forward."

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts across 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. ILA's Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017 provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices and cutting-edge

research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. ILA publishes The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and Reading Research Quarterly, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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