

Commonwealth of Kentucky

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REGINALD THOMAS

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Andy Barr
United States House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Barr:

As the Kentucky State Senator for District 13, I would like to convey my support for Community Action Council's Prep Academy at William Wells Brown. It is my understanding that the Council's Prep Academy will serve to bridge the pre-existing educational gaps in this area that were exacerbated by COVID-19, and that the Council has a long and successful 56-year history of operating the Head Start program in Central Kentucky.

I was honored to be asked to join the Mayor Gorton's Commission for Racial Justice and Equality's Education and Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. As I have said many times, the achievement gap starts on the first day of kindergarten. Early education is the key to reducing this gap. It is through programs like Head Start, which will be offered at the proposed Prep Academy, that communities can invest in preparing children to succeed in K-12 education and beyond. For the children in the William Wells Brown School district, one that has been designated as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school due to very low student performance, this support is all the more imperative.

I recently co-sponsored legislation establishing a "Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity." Programs like the proposed Prep Academy fulfill a vital component for ensuring racial equity, and it is with this in mind that I confirm my support of the proposal to fund the construction of a Prep Academy to serve the William Wells Brown Neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reginald L. Thomas".

Reginald L. Thomas
Senate Democratic Caucus Chair
State Senator, 13th District

RLT/aco