



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kenya Parker

608-266-5813

Representative LaKeshia Myers Demands Transparency & Accountability of the Lutheran High School Association/Milwaukee Lutheran High School

MADISON – Representative LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) issued the following comments regarding the anti-Black Lives Matter statement issued by The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee Lutheran High School:

“As an educational institution located in the 12th Assembly District, I was disappointed to read the August 4th statement issued by The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee (LHSA), the parent organization of Milwaukee Lutheran High School (MLHS). The statement was not only racially insensitive and misguided, it was also condescending to the Black families whose children make up the majority of Milwaukee Lutheran’s student population. For school leadership to infer that it has invested in Black lives long before the Black Lives Matter Foundation was created in 2013, is dismissive of the lived experiences of each of its Black students, faculty, and staff.

To add further insult, LHSA/MLHS went on to taut a \$2.4 million annual investment in the Black community; but conveniently failed to mention that \$7 million in funding comes from taxpayers through the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. Therefore, not acknowledging that it is because of the Black students who attend Milwaukee Lutheran High School, that the school is even equipped to remain open. Instead of being appreciative of the Black families that choose to educate their children at Milwaukee Lutheran, LHSA/MLHS chose to be disingenuous. Choosing instead to weaponize benevolence while shrouding it in religious dogma, further proving that the leadership of the association and school are out of touch and require intense and ongoing anti-bias, diversity, and inclusion training.

The motto of the Lutheran High School Association is, ‘We teach truth’. But stating the Black Lives Matter Foundation’s beliefs, ‘do not align with biblical views’ suggests the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee and Milwaukee Lutheran High School only value the truths of some, and not all. Over the past few days, I have heard from many students and alumni of color from Milwaukee Lutheran who have shared their experiences of racism, sexism, and cultural insensitivity. These experiences cannot continue to be dismissed by Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Educational institutions have a responsibility to educate and affirm their students and can no longer continue to operate outside of an equity lens.

As a legislator, educator, and follower of the Christian faith, I implore the Lutheran High School Association and Milwaukee Lutheran High School to educate themselves and understand that Black Lives Matter is not simply a ‘rallying cry’; it is a movement for total equity, justice, and liberation that has existed for centuries. I urge the association and the school to reevaluate their stance on issues surrounding both equity and activism—as Jesus himself was the ultimate activist and advocate of marginalized communities.”

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