



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murphy Statement on Emerson's Law Enforcement Lies

MADISON, WI — Yesterday, State Representative Jodi Emerson, a Democrat from Eau Claire, stated on the floor of the State Assembly:

“If a system is racist, and we have to admit that the history of law enforcement did have its roots in racism, when it starts out as slave catchers I’m sorry it is racist.”

State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) issued the following statement in response:

“Representative Emerson’s claim that law enforcement is racist twists the facts, ignores Wisconsin history, and is a slap in the face to all those who serve or have served our communities by putting their lives on the line to make us safer.

“Policing dates back thousands of years and began well before American chattel slavery. As long as there have been laws, there has been a need to enforce them. In Wisconsin, policing began with county sheriffs in the 1830s. There is no evidence that law enforcement in Wisconsin was created to enforce slavery, an abhorrent practice that early Wisconsinites clearly opposed.

“Outright stating that Wisconsin law enforcement was created to catch slaves is ignorant, misleading, and disrespectful. This misinformation has no place in the Wisconsin Legislature. Statements like these will only increase political polarization, increase mistrust of police, and make it more dangerous for law enforcement to carry out their duties. Once again, Wisconsin Democrats are displaying just how out of touch they are with reality and mainstream Wisconsinites.

“Just last week, another Democrat from the Fox Valley, Representative Lee Snodgrass, drew widespread criticism for tweeting that parents should have no input in public education.

“For two weeks in a row, my liberal colleagues have proven they are completely disconnected from the lives of the people they claim to represent. Wisconsin deserves better.”

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