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## **Representative LaKeshia Myers Issues Statement Regarding Holocaust Education Funding**

MADISON – Representative LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement regarding today’s vote on Holocaust Education Resource Center Funding:

“Today, the assembly voted to give \$200,000 in funding to the Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC), a private organization dedicated to educating K-12 students about the Jewish holocaust. While I appreciate, understand, and empathize with the mission of HERC, I could not in good conscience vote in favor of the funding during the committee process.”

Myers went on to say, “When the Holocaust Education bill was passed by the legislature a few years ago, it was presented as a bill that would not require any state funding, because the HERC would create, pay for, and implement the mandate. Today, that tune has changed and government is being asked to fund a private organization.

Furthermore, the Holocaust Education legislation states that K-12 students are to be taught about the ‘holocaust and other genocides’—when I asked HERC how this portion of the mandate was being implemented, they admitted that it was done, but not in a consistent or formal way. This gave me pause, because I want to ensure that there is fidelity in teaching about not only the holocaust as relates to the Jewish community, but other holocausts and genocides that have taken place in the United States and abroad.

I also voted ‘No’ in protest; a protest specifically in response to the Wisconsin legislature’s recent assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion. I cannot fathom how the legislature could vote in favor of funding to educate students on the holocaust, but continue to vote to strip funding from policies and programs that relate to other ethnic groups. As a legislative body, our votes must not be fickle and diversity funding should not be selectively granted. By acting in this way, the legislature is effectively picking and choosing which history is valuable and which is not.

I did vote affirmatively on final passage, because I agree with the overall premise of teaching history and will ensure that the HERC collaborates with other institutions and engage survivors to fully implement the study of other genocides.”

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