



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rep. Melissa Sargent: Statement on Unrest in Madison**

MADISON— Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement in response to the unrest that occurred in Madison last night:

“It is extremely difficult to see the damage and destruction done to our community. I myself hold the Capitol building in the highest regard, and the Lady Forward statue is a special fortress and symbol of strength and unity to myself and many others. I certainly do not condone the violence against those who were harmed last night, including my colleague Senator Tim Carpenter, and I wish both him and others who were harmed a quick recovery.

I know that this unrest, occurring across our community, state, and nation, is valid. Right now, there is deep-rooted and justified anger within our community, and throughout the globe. I too am angry. I am angry about the senseless attack on Senator Carpenter. I am angry about police brutality. I am angry about racist individuals and the systems of racism that continue to pervade our nation. However, my anger is insignificant compared to that of those who have faced racial injustices for their entire life— compared to those who have lost their loved ones at the hands of police violence.

We cannot forget the reason these protests arose in the first place; the protests are for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the numerous other Black lives that have been lost to injustice and systemic racism. We must come together and do more to address racial disparities and inequities against the Black community and other communities of color. Everyone deserves to feel safe where they live, where they can achieve their dreams, where they can grow and raise a family. This is a fundamental Wisconsin value.

We cannot continue to delay action. Change is long overdue, and we must take meaningful and comprehensive steps here in the State Legislature. I call on Republican leadership to take action on the pieces of legislation that the Legislative Black Caucus & Governor Evers have called for, so we can take steps towards rectifying these injustices and working toward healing our community and state.

Black lives matter, and we must not lose sight of the conversation that deserves to be heard. Statutes can be replaced. People cannot.”

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*Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff*