



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2024

CONTACT: Van Wanggaard

608-266-1832

Governor's' Council on Domestic Abuse Violates Open Meetings & Open Records Law Blames Domestic Abuse on "White Supremacy"

Wanggaard Calls On Evers to Rescind His Council's Long-Range Plan

MADISON – Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) expressed shock at the discovery that Governor Evers' Council on Domestic Abuse (GCDA) had failed to follow Wisconsin's Open Meeting and Open Records Laws, while blaming domestic violence on "White Supremacy." Senator Jesse James (R-Altoona) and Representative Pat Snyder (R-Schofield) [discovered through open records requests](#) that the GCDA went almost 2 full years without noticing their meetings, and withheld important records.

"The Open Records and Open Meetings laws are not suggestions. Governor Evers' Council on Domestic Abuse clearly broke the law and now we know why," said Wanggaard. "They spent their time writing a report filled with liberal gobbledygook and socialist-talking points to guide their decision-making."

The [GCDA's 38-page Long Range Plan](#), which is used to help guide the Council's policy goals and funding decisions, consists of mostly blaming whites for domestic violence, social justice talking points, and a laundry list of far-left policy goals.

Among the recommendations made by the Governor's Council of Domestic Abuse are:

- Defunding the police¹
- Decriminalizing prostitution²
- Creating a universal basic income³
- Providing universal health care⁴
- Eliminating mandatory arrest policies.⁵

¹ "It requires us to [act] on calls to defund police..." pg 21; "Support[ing] efforts to divest from criminal responses and defund police" pg 22; GCDA Long-Range Plan

² Resist efforts...to criminalize abortion, sex work and other related issues" pg 22, GCDA Long-Range Plan

³ "Support the universal basic income model", pg 12, GCDA Long-Range Plan

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510

E-Mail: Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov • SenatorWanggaard.com

The long-range plan also states that domestic violence is the result of "...racism, classism, colonialism and other forms of oppression."⁶ The Council also stated that systemic racism, white supremacy, and white feminism are among the causes of, and hindrances to preventing, domestic violence.⁷

"While domestic violence is at record highs in Wisconsin, and the violence itself is more severe, Wisconsin's domestic abuse advocates are meeting in secret. Now we know why," said Wanggaard. "Instead of trying to prevent violence, they spent years developing a social justice manifesto filled with hair-brained, jargon-filled, mumbo jumbo to guide their funding decisions. All while we have a burgeoning crisis on our hands. It's just crazy! "

"Not every idea the GCDA is advocating for is bad. We do need more SANE nurses. We do need more services to help victims," said Wanggaard. "But given this is their planning document, I don't know that we can trust them to fund actual needs over social justice groups' wish lists. Governor Evers should immediately rescind his council's long-range plan. I will not vote to confirm any members of the Council on Domestic Abuse until I know why they broke the law and this plan is rescinded."

⁶ "...we indicate how forces of sexism, racism, classism, colonialism and other forms of oppression are the foundations for...[a] perpetuation of gender-based violence."

⁷ Pages 17-18, GCDA Long-Range Plan