



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. Murphy's Response to DC Protest Video** *A Learning Opportunity for Students, the Media, and Our Lt. Gov*

MADISON, WI — State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) issued the following statement regarding recent coverage and commentary of protests involving Covington Catholic High School students:

"I recently reviewed a [full video](#) of the Covington Catholic High School students interacting with Black Hebrew Israelites protestors and a Native American protestor who marched in between them.

"To me, the student approached by the drum beating Native American protestor appeared cornered and uncomfortable. I witnessed a young man struggling to handle a confrontation without escalation, his uneasy smile clearly an attempt to defuse the situation. The media, seeing only his white skin, red MAGA hat, and young friends around him, immediately painted him as an antagonist, filled with contempt for the man beating the drum in his face.

"Video clips and viral social media posts are seldom what they first appear to be. News media carried far and wide the incorrect story of Catholic high school students chanting "build the wall" surrounding the elderly Native American man; however, [a review of an extended video of the event](#) shows the man walking into the center of the high school students in an apparent attempt to stir the pot.

"These interactions should be recognized for what they are, three different groups crossing paths in our nation's capital. Instead, they were painted as some sort of intentional act of hate. The rhetoric of division does a huge disservice to our country and I was disappointed in our new Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes when he perpetuated this false characterization of events, going so far as to call the high school students a "[mob surrounding and taunting a Native American Vietnam War veteran](#)."

"I sincerely hope that this event helps high school students, protestors, the media, and our Lieutenant Governor learn that we gain nothing from perpetuating our divisions, especially by weaving false narratives that discourage future interaction across lines of diversity."

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