



# LAKESHIA MYERS

Wisconsin State Representative • 12th Assembly District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. LaKeshia Myers Issues a Statement Regarding the Assembly Republicans' Passage of "Tougher on Crime Bill Package"**

MADISON – The Wisconsin Assembly today passed a series of bills dubbed the “Tougher on Crime” bill package. As part of this package, were bills aimed at juvenile offenders, compassionate release of aging prisoners, and sexual assault victims. Representative LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) stated, “The bills passed today, are despicable and are nothing more than political pandering and fearmongering”. Of particular interest was AB 806, which expands the acts for which a juvenile may be placed in the Serious Juvenile Offender Program (SJOP) or in a juvenile correctional facility or secured residential care center for children and youth under the Juvenile Justice Code. This is a stark contradiction to the bipartisan legislation of Act 185, which was passed under the Walker administration that called for the closing of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake youth prison in Irma, WI.

Representative Myers stated, “The bills passed by Republicans today are a slap in the face to the people of Wisconsin. Instead of discussing substantive education bills as requested by Governor Evers, the bills passed by the assembly today penalize college students’ if they protest on campuses (AB 444), revoke parole, probation, and extended supervision of individuals who are *charged*—not convicted—of a crime (AB 805), ends compassionate release from prison for aged and critically infirmed inmates (AB 805) and an unfunded rape data tracking system (AB 844).”

“Passing legislation that would send more youth offenders to Lincoln Hills and ending the compassionate release program for aged and chronically ill prisoners are steps in the wrong direction. As Wisconsin’s prison population continues to age, Wisconsin taxpayers are left footing the bill for the specialized healthcare needed to treat these individuals. The average cost to incarcerate a chronically ill or aged inmate is \$70,000 a year, which translates to \$84 million per year. As a former employee of the Department of Corrections, I understand that this process strains our already overworked correctional officers and other institution staff. This is fiscally irresponsible and it is a detriment to the corrections system”, said Myers.

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