



LAKESHIA MYERS

Wisconsin State Representative • 12th Assembly District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. LaKeshia Myers' Statement on Gov. Evers' Biennial Budget Address

MADISON – This evening, Governor Tony Evers delivered his biennial budget address to the Wisconsin State Legislature. In response, Rep. LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee) issued the following statement:

“Tonight, Governor Evers reiterated his commitment to the students and parents of Wisconsin by stressing the importance of making good on the state’s promise of increasing the state’s funding of education at two-thirds. By having two-thirds funding come directly from the state, this will ease the burden on homeowners who are often left to fill the void of inequity left by inadequate school funding. Funding our public schools at two-thirds places the fiscal responsibility of education where it belongs, on the state legislature, who is constitutionally responsible for ensuring all of Wisconsin’s children have access to a quality education.

I was also pleased to hear Governor Evers’ commitment to reviewing the criminalization of children under the age of 17. By restructuring the Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) to include older teenagers, we will end the practice of criminalizing young offenders and waiving them into adult prisons. Wisconsin is one of only nine states in the nation in which 17 year-olds are automatically treated as adults in the criminal justice system—a phenomenon that has been proven to be ineffective and largely punitive for Black and Hispanic youth.

Furthermore, I was excited to hear of the Governor’s plan to move forward with investment in drug and alcohol treatment for incarcerated populations. Treatment and diversion have both been proven to be most effective in helping to decrease recidivism. These programs, coupled with earned release and expanded work release programs truly encapsulate the tiered model of reentry preparation which is sorely needed within the Department of Corrections.

Tonight’s budget address outlined a bold vision to move Wisconsin forward. It also was a clarion call to members of the legislature, to put ego and partisanship aside and get to work for the people of Wisconsin. I look forward to discussing and debating the budget over the next several months, and I applaud Gov. Evers for offering a budget that puts the people of Wisconsin first.”

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