

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN/JEWISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP, INC.  
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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April 8, 2021

The Milwaukee Public Schools Board  
email address: governance@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Re: LRB 0402, "The African American History Education Act"

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am an attorney in Madison and in New York, but I write you as a member of the Education Committee of the African-American/Jewish Friendship Group, Inc. which, with State Representative LaKeshia Myers, of Milwaukee, has introduced a bill in the State Legislature to make African American History an integral part of American History in all of the schools in Wisconsin, Kindergarten through 12th grade.

I have attached the bill for your review and consideration.  
I have also attached a power point in support of the bill.

We have garnered support thus far from 31 State Representatives and 10 State Senators, all Democrats, and it has been our desire to obtain truly bi-partisan support for such an initiative.

We are also working in liaison with the Madison Metropolitan District to bring about a program a comprehensive program integrating African American history into the social studies curriculum, k-12, in Madison.

We have met several times with Department of Public Instruction staff to discuss development of curriculum. Additionally, we met with the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education and had a conference call with all of the Wisconsin System's Schools of Education. Part of the focus with the Schools of Education senior administrators was about recruiting more students of color particularly who can stay in Wisconsin to teach in the public schools in Wisconsin.

We would love to have the support of the Milwaukee Public Schools Board both for the passage of the bill and to participate at whichever committees of the State Legislature hold public hearings on the bill.

We request consideration of LRB 0402 at your April 22nd, 2021 meeting, if at all possible, given the likelihood of upcoming public hearings on the bill.

We believe that it will be important to have the Milwaukee Public Schools as the largest public school District in the State as an important partner in this endeavor.

Very Truly Yours,

Attorney Gerald C. Sternberg

cc. State Representative LaKeshia Myers  
Merle Sternberg  
Kenya Parker  
Jamie Murray-Branch  
Gloria Hawkins