



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement on the Ongoing George Floyd Protests**

MADISON – Over the last week, our nation has seen protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, a Minnesota man killed in police custody while an officer kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Rep. Neubauer (D-Racine) released the following statement in support of the protests:

“George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery should be alive today. Their deaths implicate all of us, our institutions and our culture. We cannot continue to accept a system that discriminates against our Black neighbors and condones their deaths.

“We have work to do. At the state level, we must enact legislation that changes the parameters for policing in our communities. A number of critical bills have been proposed, but have failed to receive the hearings or votes necessary to become law.

“This year, I co-authored AB 1012, a bill to change the use of force standards for law enforcement throughout Wisconsin. This bill would proactively assert that “the primary duty of all law enforcement is to preserve the life of all individuals; that deadly force is to be used only as the last resort; that officers should use skills and tactics that minimize the likelihood that force will become necessary; that, if officers must use physical force, it should be the least amount of force necessary to safely address the threat; and that law enforcement officers must take reasonable action to stop or prevent any unreasonable use of force by their colleagues.”

“This bill did not even receive a committee hearing, much less a vote on the Assembly floor. It is critically important that we act now, and I ask that you join me in calling on your legislators and Speaker Vos to support AB 1012 and bring the bill to a vote. This bill will not be the end of the conversation, but it is a critical step forward.

“I would also like to say a few words about protest. Everyone has a right and, in my opinion, a duty, to stand up to injustice in our community and our country. We have seen this right challenged in communities across the country, including by our own President. The fact that President Trump has sanctioned and encouraged violence against protestors exercising their Constitutional right to assembly should be of great concern to all of us. We must hold those who violate the right of the people to peaceably assemble accountable.

“I am proud to be part of a community that continues to gather in support of Black lives, and I stand with those exercising their right to protest as we work to ensure justice is done. #BlackLivesMatter”

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