

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rep. Jessie Rodriguez

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Statement on Civil Unrest in Madison

MADISON – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) issued the following statement regarding the civil unrest that occurred in Madison on Tuesday night:

"Last night, the protests in Madison turned markedly destructive and violent, resulting in historic statues being toppled, the Capitol building being vandalized, and a sitting state senator being hospitalized. The most apt description of last night was a period of anarchy made possible by weak and confused leadership.

"Statues can be remade and windows can be replaced, but an attack perpetrated against Democratic Senator Tim Carpenter should never have happened. The Capitol building is the seat of state government and a place where elected officials and their staff do the work of their constituents. Leaving the grounds of the Capitol vulnerable to attack for weeks only served as an invitation for more disorder.

"Governor Evers and Mayor Rhodes-Conway have largely taken a permissive route of appeasement. Evers' indecisiveness, indicated by his late statement and muddled message, demonstrates that maintaining order will not be his first priority.

"While activating the National Guard is a step in the right direction, they should have been activated and ready to dispatch weeks ago."

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