



## **Wisconsin Legislature Offers Scraps and Calls it “Clear Reforms”**

The Wisconsin legislature has proved yet again that they are putting their own agenda ahead of the people of Wisconsin. BLOC and our partners have spoken out for weeks about these bills and have been very clear that the Task Force recommendations don't respond to the moment. This moment calls for bold changes, imagination, and courage. What we saw yesterday was lazy, and politically safe.

The process itself was fraudulent from the beginning. Leaked emails clearly showed that members of the task force were not there in good faith. Just last week, the co-chair of the task force, Rep. James Steineke, was shown to have silenced fellow colleagues who were calling out his and other lawmakers racist behavior. These actions show that this process wasn't serious from the beginning. Democrats should not validate anything that came from that farce of a task force. Republicans from around the state continue to spew and share untruths and racist dog whistles about Milwaukee. State Representatives and Senators that do not represent Milwaukee should visit the communities they refer to as a warzone and consult organizations that are in the community and are actively working to improve the community. We have no doubt if the concern for Milwaukee is genuine, these lawmakers will reach out to us in order to become educated on the true realities of what is occurring here. We are overpoliced. We need to get rid of lead pipes so our children don't have to drink contaminated water. Our community needs investment. Our communities need safe and affordable housing. Safety isn't the further policing of our communities, it is the very reason why we called out the task force. If they had truly listened to the feedback from the communities that these bills are focused on serving, none of them would have been proposed to begin with.

Law enforcement is the problem. The discussion should remain on what laws need to be put into place in order to stop policing from murdering Black and Brown people. Police vouching for these bills should tell you all that you need to know. Some Representatives would rather appease powerful police unions than to actually serve and advocate for communities that have been brutalized for centuries.

Our community has been demanding more. The passage of these bills were a slap in the face, and they should have never been brought to the floor for discussion. There will be some people who think we solved racism by passing these bills and will never continue the conversation. We are disappointed the Governor plans to sign these bills and call on him to create an Executive Commission to keep the conversation going. He mentioned that these are a first step and that he wants to see more comprehensive reforms from the legislature. We do too, which is why we are calling on the Governor to take the next step. A genuine, objective process that does not involve police, and a commitment to host at least 1 listening session in Milwaukee.

We're going to continue to fight and work to ensure that the Enough is Enough package from Rep David Bowen and Rep Franchesca Hong passes and is signed by the Governor. This package is what we should have started with instead of going through the motions with a task force that pretended to care and value community input.

This is a stark reminder that elections matter. How people show up and respond to this moment will reflect in the midterms next year. It's in everyone's best interest to listen to the people of Wisconsin that you all represent when we say we deserve better.