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JUST SAY “NO” TO THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TAKEOVER

Give Dr. Michael Bonds and Milwaukee Public Schools a chance by working in partnership to develop a plan

Wow. I cannot believe the State now wants to take over the Milwaukee Public School and the City of Milwaukee. Well, let’s set the record straight. Why is all of this happening when School Board Director Dr. Michael Bonds is in position as a leader of Milwaukee Public Schools. Why is this happening when Dr. Bonds is advocating for Milwaukee Public Schools to create a “Latino District” rather than a citywide district? Why does this always seem to happen when forward thinking people get into leadership? And, lastly, why is this happening when Milwaukee Public Schools is lined up to get millions of dollars. Why?



I asked myself those questions, and, at the end of the day, I say the State of Wisconsin needs to stop trying to take over everything. Instead, the State should listen to local government and the people. Years ago, the State took over the Child Welfare System, claiming that Milwaukee County was not doing a good job. Well, guess what? The State is not doing any better. Just ask the baby who recently died in foster care at the hands of his Aunt, or ask the young lady who was abused and neglected for years and ended up killing her step grandfather. It seems to me that the State of Wisconsin needs to stay in its own lane. They are all over the board. Give Dr. Michael Bonds a chance. Put Milwaukee Public Schools on probation and work with them to ratify the ills of the system. Stop trying to take over everything.

I say to Mayor Tom Barrett, reform doesn’t always mean takeover. People who pay taxes have a right to elect representatives to govern the education of youth. Have you looked at the statistics of what is going on in the households of children? Milwaukee is the second highest for unemployment in the nation amongst African American Men. That affects children and families. Secondly, 75% of people who are incarcerated in the State of Wisconsin come from the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. I say to the State, come up with some funding for real job programs, not the kind you have announced that just gives more of your buddies big contracts. Bring that stimulus money to Milwaukee where it can truly stimulate families and this economy. Ask yourself these questions the next time you ride by a construction project in our state: Where are the female employees? Where are the African American and Latino Men and Women working on these jobs? There are hardly any. Let’s not just take over the Milwaukee Public School System by denying all of the negative statistics that effect this County. Let’s stimulate families. Let’s give Milwaukee Public Schools a chance by working in partnership to develop a plan and let’s stop pointing the finger at different levels of government and work collectively together for the greater good. Governor Doyle, Wisconsin Legislators, Mayor Barrett and the Milwaukee Common Council, let’s work together. We all represent the same people! **We** can do this if we all work together!

CHAIRWOMAN: Finance and Audit, Combined Community Services Board, Vision for Vliet Task Force, Work Reform for Men of Color Task Force • MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMITTEES: Parks, Energy and Environment, Health and Human Needs • MEMBERSHIPS: National Association of Counties (NACo), National Organization of Black County Officials, Milwaukee County Friends of Africa, Inc. • COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Founder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Back-to-School Festival Board, Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy Board, Abundant Life Ministry, Inc., Board, King Advisory Inc., Board, Member of Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ

