Phone: (608) 266-5660 Toll-free: (888) 291-3489 Sen.Jagler@legis.wi.gov

Room 131 South P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

August 22, 2024

Board President Marva Herndon Milwaukee Public Schools 5225 W. Vliet Street Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dear President Herndon,

Children deserve to feel safe at school. It is vitally important to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible to help facilitate a learning environment. Because of this, we passed several measures last session aimed at improving school safety. Two portions of the Shared Revenue Package were focused on this, school crime reporting and requiring School Resources Officers in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Assembly Bill 245 (Wisconsin Act 12) mandated that by January 1, 2024, 25 School Resource Officers be present at schools within MPS. School Resource Officers are an important component of school safety. By having regular officers assigned to schools, they are able to develop relationships with students and faculty, identify issues before they become too dangerous and create a vital connection between law enforcement and the schools.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Milwaukee Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon, MPS Vice President Jilly Gokalgandhi was asked about MPS meeting this requirement. Her answer was dismissive and appeared to suggest that the school district had no plans to comply with the requirement. I am hopeful that this was simply a misstatement made in the moment. I am writing to inquire about the School District's plans to address returning School Resource Officers to MPS and meet the crime reporting requirements. These provisions should be seen as a powerful tools to help keep our kids safe.

I eagerly await your response. In the meantime, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or want to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

John Jagler

Chair, Senate Committee on Education

13th Senate District

CC: Milwaukee Public School Superintendent Eduardo Galvan

CC: Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffery Norman