

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## KALEEM CAIRE ENDORSES BRITTANY KINSER FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MADISON, WI** - Today, I am proud to announce my endorsement of Brittany Kinser for Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Although I did not intend to publicly endorse a candidate in this race, after seeing Brittany in three forums—two in person and one virtually—and her determination to travel the state to meet parents, children, and community leaders where they are, and respond to tough questions, I am convinced she is the leader our state needs at this critical moment.

Brittany's vision and commitment to improving educational outcomes for all Wisconsin children stands out. Having witnessed her leadership firsthand when we worked together with a statewide coalition of education reformers to pass 2023 Wisconsin Act 11, I know she can deliver positive and impactful results. This cross-partisan law provided an historic increase in per pupil funding for all Wisconsin children, resulting in \$2.6 billion of increased resources, including improved special education reimbursement rates.

It was Brittany and I who initiated this effort, hired a team of cross-partisan lobbyists, and recruited support statewide to ensure every child in Wisconsin could win. Everyone benefited—most importantly, thousands of children and families. The only way to make anything happen in education for all children in Wisconsin, particularly in these divided times, is to have leaders in key positions like the State Superintendent of Public Instruction who can bring Democrats, Republicans, and independents like me together to do what's best and important for children. Brittany has shown us she can do this—that this is who she is at her core. The public can see this from the broad diversity of endorsements she has received from Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across Wisconsin.

I am also proud to join a cross-partisan group of African American leaders in Wisconsin who have been stout champions for improving the education of children in our state and local communities: Dr. Howard Fuller, former Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, Entrepreneur and Attorney Cory Nettles, former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Attorney DeVona Wright Cottrell, an award winning corporate lawyer and civic leader in Milwaukee, and Attorney John Daniels, retired Chairman and Managing Partner of Quarles & Brady Law Firm, and the first African American to lead a major law firm in Wisconsin.

With two and a half decades of leadership in traditional and independent public charter schools, Brittany will drive the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to become

the catalyst for opportunity, stability, and innovation that our state needs. She will work across party lines to ensure all our children can read proficiently by fourth grade, create a fair school funding formula for all public schools, address our state's teacher shortage crisis, and elevate all children's academic achievement, and college and career readiness.

Brittany recognizes that schooling can never be "one size fits all" given unique learning styles. The imperative work of preparing our next generation truly takes all of us, and Brittany Kinser is the right leader at the right moment to help lead the way.

## **About Kaleem Caire**

Kaleem Caire is a transformational education reform leader, founder and CEO of One City Schools, President of One City Advocates, and the former President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison. He also served as the inaugural Minority Student Achievement Consultant at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction from 1997–1999. His commissioning of the first comprehensive study of High School Graduation Rates in the United States in 2001, when he was just 29 years old, led to graduation rates replacing dropout rates as the new ultimate measurement of school productivity in the United States and countries around the world. It also influenced billions of dollars being spent on education reform and led to improvements domestically and abroad. Kaleem also worked as a civilian appointee by former President Barack Obama on his signature Race to the Top education initiative and, before that, as an appointee by former President George W. Bush's administration to the Independent Rules Panel that advised the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education on the assessment and implementation of the Title I: No Child Left Behind program.

Caire's endorsement is personal and not affiliated with the organizations he currently leads or formerly led.

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