FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Baraboo High School Photo

We are alarmed by the disturbing display of anti-Semitism by a group of Baraboo High School students. Though the incident apparently took place last May, it reflects a rising swell of anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. We are particularly concerned with the prevalence of bigotry within schools; more than 25 percent of all the recorded anti-Semitic incidents in Wisconsin last year took place among students or on campus. We have witnessed numerous egregious incidents targeting African Americans, Latinos, and other minority groups.

We appreciate the school district’s comment and look forward to working with them to prevent any future such incidents. As we know, acts of hate begin with hateful expressions. Such expressions must be a call to action for schools and families to educate youth to respect diversity and to embrace difference. The values that will hold us together must be taught and reinforced, lest we see the continued rise of hate and its consequences.

Jewish Community Relations Council, Milwaukee Jewish Federation

Jewish Federation of Madison

Wisconsin Jewish Conference

ADL Midwest
Co-Signers (list in formation)

Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah, Rabbi Wes Kalmar
Congregation Emanu El B’ne Jeshurun Social Action Committee
Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, Spiritual Leader, Cantor Deborah Martin
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, Madison
Congregation Shalom
Congregation Sinai
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Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA, The Rev. Paul D. Erickson, Bishop
Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee
Just Be Hope United Methodist Center, Rev. Deborah Thompson
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Wisconsin
Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
MA’RUF -- Aamer Ahmed, President
Masjid Al Qur’an Milwaukee, Hafiz Muhammad Shafique
Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Tory V. Topjian, Senior Pastor
Milwaukee Zen Center, Rev. Tonen O’Connor, Resident Priest Emerita
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Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
YWCA Southeast Wisconsin
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Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, Director of Religious Programming, Park Plaza Retirement Center, Chicago
Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, Assisting Minister, Hephatha Lutheran Church
Rabbi Dena Feingold, Beth Hillel Temple, Kenosha, WI
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Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee
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