

RESOLUTION

Condemning Jim Lucas, Indiana House of Representatives

WHEREAS, Representative Jim Lucas posted a meme Facebook that was distasteful, offensive, and racially charged;

WHEREAS, this latest post depicts scantily dressed Black children dancing with a caption that read “We gon’ get paid”;

WHEREAS, the selection of this meme was intentional for Representative Lucas stated that he could have selected a “white one” but chose this one instead;

WHEREAS, African-Americans make up approximately 9% of Indiana’s population and only 2% of Indiana District 69, the District Jim Lucas represents, yet he chose this picture and this platform to protest the Federal relief assistance sent to help many Americans, regardless of their race, during the COVID-19 pandemic, without offering any equitable or just alternative solutions to help those who of us “Who are in this Together”;

WHEREAS, this is yet another in a pattern of posts throughout the years, that have contained racial or sexist undertones;

WHEREAS, Representative Lucas as an elected official is held to a higher standard and expectations by the residents of the State of Indiana to follow and his actions on Facebook and those of others, with this demeanor, do nothing to move Indiana to the “NextLevel” nor does it contribute anything to the public dialogue;

WHEREAS, Representative Lucas has shown no remorse and continues to defend this racist behavior in a time when communities look to their representatives to stand on higher moral ground, for as his title states, he “represents” us all, Representative Lucas has failed us;

WHEREAS, our representatives must be held accountable for their actions and Representative Lucas has shown his constituents that implicit biases renders Representative Lucas unable or brings into question his ability to work on behalf of all of his constituents regardless of gender, disability, age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, creed, national origin, and sexual orientation, all protected classes that would be contained in a comprehensive Hate Crime Law, something Indiana does not have;

WHEREAS, Representative Lucas has been removed from the interim study committees on elections and public policy, and demoted as vice chair of the

committee on government reduction, as called for by the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus¹ and Representative Robin Shackelford, its Chair;

WHEREAS, Indiana Speaker of the House, Todd Huston, called Representative Lucas' Facebook post "unacceptable"; and

WHEREAS, "censure" is a very public reprimand which would specifically address the offenses concerning any conduct that violates the moral and ethical standards of all elected officials;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People², the nation's oldest and boldest civil and human rights organization whose mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all, calls for the resignation of Representative Jim Lucas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls on the Governor, the Indiana Senate, and the Indiana House of Representatives to condemn Representative Lucas for this most recent Facebook post;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Indiana Senate, and the Indiana House of Representatives publically censure Representative Lucas by reading from the floor, into the record, this Resolution in both chambers; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, Representative Lucas should issue a public statement that apologizes for this Facebook post and other that cast aspersion on his public office and that were found offensive to citizenry of the State of Indiana.

Submitted this 18th day of May, 2020.

Barbara Bolling-Williams

Barbara Bolling-Williams, President
Indiana State Conference of the NAACP

¹ The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) also called for his removal from the Education Committee also which we fully support.

² The NAACP founded in 1909, is a civil rights organization committed to fight for equality and the elimination of racial discrimination. The Indiana State Conference is the governing body for the 22 Branches, 7 Youth Councils and Jr. Youth Council, and 7 College Chapters. **For more information contact Barbara Bolling-Williams, Indiana State Conference President at 219-614-4889.**