

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Albany nurse Joyce Barlow calls for action on HBCU threats

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Joyce Barlow, RN, of Albany, GA, and recently elected to the first Nurses Hall of Fame of the Georgia Nurses Association, is choosing to speak out about the recent spate of racist threats that have been made against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

“As a nominee to the Nurses Hall of Fame and as a black woman, I feel that it is my duty to use that platform and notoriety to decry the violent threats made this past week against several Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the south,” she said.

Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff was quoted by WALB as saying, “I will work to ensure the U.S. Department of Justice is fully engaged in the investigation of these terrorist threats.”

“I applaud and join with Senator Ossoff,” Barlow said. Further she said, “I call on the leadership of the communities in Southwest Georgia to come out strongly against the rash of threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), including our own Albany State University. In the past, some of our elected representatives have refused to condemn the defense of the KKK because they knew people that had ancestors who served in the Confederacy. Well, it is time for *all* those who were elected to serve *all* the constituents of their communities, especially those whose ancestors were enslaved, lynched, persecuted and made victims of violence, to show some backbone. The racism that is the foundation of the threats to the HBCU is a continuation of the violence against people of African descent that has continued since 1619. Silence is not passive when violence is at the door. Silence is more than indifference now. Silence is commonly understood to mean acceptance. In this case, silence could equal death. We cannot abide silence from those who assumed the responsibility to protect law and order, to protect real people.”

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