

Manistee Democrats:

What a day! I am writing this at 1:20am Chicago time so please forgive my potential spelling and grammar errors!

We had a great Michigan delegate breakfast hearing from our state legislative leaders about the great work the Democrat majority did in the past two years in Lansing. My picture with Joe Tate, Speaker of the Michigan House illustrates just how he had a great career as an offensive lineman for the MSU Spartans and is now leading the Michigan House. Winnie Brinks told us how the Michigan Senate plans to continue to expand on the great work they have been doing. I also had a great opportunity to talk with former Governor Jim Blanchard and his wife Janet about their planned fund raiser in Ludington for Elissa Slotkin.



The caucus meetings at McCormick Place were very interesting this morning. I went first to the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) caucus where we learned about their work to stop Asian hate that was caused by the Trump administration trying to blame the Covid pandemic on China. They were also concerned about how Project 2025 would impede immigration of people who did not meet the strict white, Christian stereotype. We heard inspiring speeches from Senator Tammy Duckworth and Representative Mark Tanaka. It was great that Tim Walz stopped in to share his stories about China.

In the afternoon I attended the LGBTQ+ caucus which had over 600 people in attendance. The most moving speech was by an advocate who asked us to raise our hands if we had lost a friend or relative to AIDS. They then stated that AIDS is no longer a death sentence due to governmental funding of research and development of a viable treatment regimen that the Biden/Harris administration renewed after Trump killed it. This got a sustained standing ovation. There were several speeches attacking the far-right culture wars on transgender people that also got great reception. VP

Candidate Tim Walz also stopped by and told a wonderful story about how he became the faculty advisor for the first student gay/straight alliance at the high school in Minnesota where he taught social studies and coached football. He definitely is a great storyteller and a genuine article. What you see is what you get!



We then spent three hours on a shuttle bus taking us from the hotel to the United Center. The protestors did a good job outsmarting the police by blocking the streets that the busses were using to get us from the hotels to the arena. When the police moved one group off the street another just fell in behind and restored the blockade. We finally got to our seats in the Michigan delegation in the arena. The speakers were all enthralling but the look on Hilary Clinton's face when we started chanting "lock HIM up!" was really special! I had the opportunity to sit behind US Reps Hayley Stevens and Dan Kildee. Senator Debbie Stabenow was two rows ahead of me. I got my 5 seconds of fame on CNN when we were cheering for UAW President Sean Fain who wore a shirt proclaiming that "Trump is a Scab!" Speeches by US Reps Jaime Raskin, AOC, and Jasmine Crockett were truly amazing. The response to Joe Biden was overwhelming and I hope you got the same emotional chills watching it on

TV that I got being there waving one of the We (heart) Joe signs. When Joe's family and Kamala and Doug joined him on stage the tears flowed freely!

That is enough for now. I really need to catch some sleep because we do it all again later this morning. President Obama and Michelle will headline tomorrow's arena show and I have more caucuses to attend and learn about. I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow night!

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