

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Aisha Moe  
AishaForStateSenate@gmail.com

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The logo for Aisha Moe For State Senate is displayed on a blue rectangular background. It features the name "Aisha Moe" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "For State Senate" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font centered below it. The text is flanked by two white horizontal bars on each side, resembling a stylized equals sign or a balance scale.

**Responding to the COVID-19 epidemic to ensure the safety of all citizens**

*Our response to this outbreak needs to prioritize saving lives above all else*

**MADISON, WI, March 23** – Aisha Moe, candidate for State Senate in District 26, creates a call for action and policy requests for local, state and federal leaders based on the current state of affairs:

“In the midst of the crisis brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak, our community has the opportunity to reach out and help each other get through this. By coming to our neighbors, establishing support networks, and working together by helping each other with groceries, medication, and more, we can ensure that we flatten the curve and come out of this epidemic strong. This process is known as mutual aid, and it has been advocated for by people across the United States, including congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. It has been amazing watching the massive increase in mutual aid networks across the US, but as our communities come together to support one another, we must ask our local, state, and federal governments to do their jobs and provide relief wherever possible. It is frustrating to see that the Republican leadership in the Wisconsin State Legislature has remained in recess and has not taken action to help our community. Enacting policies to help our community is their job. As a candidate for State Senate in the 26th District, I believe it is critically important that the following actions be taken by our elected officials:

**THE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS I SUPPORT:**

**Halt evictions, foreclosures, and rent hikes immediately**

Governor Evers has issued a safer at home order in order to help flatten the curve and slow the spread of this virus, but we can only be safer at home if we have a home to return to. We are calling for the immediate suspension of any activities that could deprive people of their shelter, which could recklessly endanger both the residents and their communities in the midst of this pandemic

**Freeze payments for rent, mortgage, utilities and student debt payments.**

Additionally, if we are to ensure that people are not deprived of their shelter in this crisis, we need to ensure that they are able to afford their housing. People’s incomes have been massively reduced or outright cut in the midst of this crisis, and bill payments can cut into people’s already limited access to money. With so many out of work, we must ensure people’s livelihoods if we are to avoid sending people into a spiral of debt that they may never recover from.

### **Move the April 7th election and mail every register voter a ballot**

By postponing our April 7th election to, at minimum, May 12th, and extending the online voter registration deadline, Wisconsin will be able to ensure that our next election is both safe and democratic. To ensure the health and safety of all of our voters and poll workers who would be put at risk by maintaining the election date, we should also mail every registered voter who has not already cast their vote an absentee ballot. Given that polling places are often high-traffic areas and that many poll workers are in a higher age range and thus more at risk of complications from COVID-19, it is clear that delaying this election would save lives.

### **Deploy Wisconsin's Rainy Day Fund for this Fight**

The Wisconsin State "Rainy Day Fund" now holds approximately \$649.1 million. The rainy day is here. This money needs to be implemented immediately and strategically to help all Wisconsinites through this crisis. The "safer at home" order has left a financial crisis for every person in the state and the state has an obligation to support our community.

### **Accept the Federal Money for Medicaid Expansion**

For years, Wisconsin has refused to accept a substantial sum of money from the federal government to expand the Medicaid system. That ends now. The first step is to accept these funds. On top of that, although the federal government has passed legislation to cover all testing for COVID-19, the cost of treatment and other healthcare costs still create a barrier between us and a healthy population. Wisconsin should immediately accept the federal money for Medicaid expansion to cover the costs of these expenses for the underinsured.

### **Compel universities to make clear procedures for future evacuations**

The UW system has a responsibility to craft a clear response to any crisis that might befall the student body and to clearly communicate that response to their students. Their current response has been muddled, and oftentimes left students confused and scared regarding their future. Students were misled as to where they should go, where they were allowed to stay, and when they could move. One good response is worth fifty half-baked responses, so in the future we would call upon the University to develop more effective contingency plans in the face of future emergencies. We would also call upon the university to waive any fees associated with storing or moving property students may have left behind, given the University's failure to inform students of what to do in a timely manner, which affected students' ability to plan their move-outs. Additionally, we request the university to consider students who are dealing with housing insecurity. College applicants across the US are watching how the UW system reacts to this outbreak and it is up to us to maintain our reputation as a university that cares for our students.

### **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS:**

#### **Provide a \$2,000 per month UBI to citizens to cover expenses**

Everyone - from college students to retirees, parents to young children, residents of rural areas to residents of cities - is being hit hard by this virus. We all have needs that are unique to our individual situations and it is extremely hard to meet those needs right now. A monthly payment of \$2,000 during this outbreak, as advocated for by presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, allows us the freedom to make the decisions necessary to our continued survival.

#### **Deactivate ICE and release detainees**

ICE detention centers have proven to be incredibly immoral from their conception. Their cramped quarters, unsanitary conditions, and lack of access to adequate medical care is unconscionable whilst not

in the middle of a pandemic. To continue as is in these conditions is nothing short of an atrocity. As more detainees test positive for the virus, it becomes clearer and clearer that the appalling conditions of these centers will turn them into death camps. We must call for the immediate shut-down of all ICE-detention centers or risk the lives of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

### **Healthcare that works for everyone**

This COVID outbreak has exposed key flaws in our healthcare system. As it stands, there aren't enough tests, enough hospital beds, or enough ventilators to adequately respond to this crisis. In a for-profit system that actively incentivizes not treating people, our response to the virus is severely handicapped. Uninsured people in high-traffic jobs across the US fear not being able to afford being tested, even if they are developing symptoms. Meanwhile, asymptomatic wealthy people can afford to get tested even if they haven't come into contact with a CORONA patient. It is clear that a system that would prioritize profits over public safety is not the kind of system that can effectively respond to this virus. In a non-profit system, we would be able to center our response on collaboration, respect, and empathy, rather than competition. Under Medicare for all, tests and response equipment could be more effectively distributed to those who need them the most. Furthermore, symptomatic people wouldn't have to fear losing their insurance by staying home and taking paid sick leave. While a Medicare for all system may not have outright halted the spread of the virus, it would have enabled our healthcare workers to more effectively respond to it.

### **NEXT ACTIONS:**

Our campaign will be hosting a FaceBook Live Stream on Monday March 30th at 7pm to make these demands and share our plan with our community. Follow us on FaceBook at [Aisha Moe For Wisconsin](#)”