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**To: Governor Evers, [evers.wi.gov](https://www.evers.wi.gov)**  
**From: [Your Name]**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us into an unprecedented national emergency. But this emergency results from a deeper and much longer-term crisis - that of poverty and inequality and of a society that ignores the needs of 140 million people who are poor or a \$400 predicament away from being poor. In Wisconsin, the situation is not any different: the poor and vulnerable are bearing the brunt of this crisis.

I call on you, Gov. Evers, to focus the COVID-19 emergency provisions to care for us all and enact this Moral Agenda immediately:

\*Implement an immediate, comprehensive healthcare system for Wisconsin. As a first step, secure a federal waiver to expand Medicaid to automatically enroll everyone in WI, and ensure continuity of care for all medical conditions, including mental health.

\*Ensure full access to free COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccine when available. Inject resources to keep all rural hospitals and community health centers open, and an infusion of resources to Indian Health Services.

\*Ensure all state hospitals address dangerous under staffing.

\*Ensure paid sick leave for all employees during this pandemic, including graduate and undergraduate students. Elderly workers and those with underlying medical conditions should receive Paid Leave time off. As a first step, designate farm workers, farmers, grocery store and food processing workers as First Responders, so that they receive 2 weeks paid leave and the necessary personal protective equipment.

\*Ensure access to education, food assistance and health care for homeless children, as well as provisions for medical testing, treatment and respite for the homeless. Secure free housing for unhoused Wisconsinites in vacant hotels and properties, and halt all sweeps of homeless camps. As a first step, provide hand washing stations and supplies to homeless people throughout the state.

\*I thank you for enacting the moratorium on evictions and utility cut-offs and foreclosures until May 26th. We ask you to include farm foreclosures, and to extend this timeframe based on economic and employment recovery, expanding this to include a state-wide freeze on rent, mortgage and utility bills, together with waivers of all late-payment charges. Poor and low-income people have lost their income because their job cannot be worked from home, leading to a possible housing crisis once the evictions moratorium is over. We demand policies that establish affordability-based, interest-free plans for housing, water and other utility services payment.

- \*Place a moratorium on enforcement of vehicle license plate renewals, and on any payment related to transportation. Implement a state-wide policy on universal bus access.
- \*Make universal broadband access a state public utility, and direct state resources to bridge the digital divide that now exists for so many WI communities. As a first step, set up hotspots throughout these communities.
- \*End work search requirements on all state benefits, and extend removal of employment search requirements for unemployment benefits.
- \*Ensure protections for people in mental health facilities, prisons and juvenile detention centers. Release non-violent prisoners awaiting trial without bond and grant clemency for all aged 50+; release and provide free treatment for prisoners affected by any immunodeficiency. Release prisoners with the supportive services they need to ensure transportation, food, shelter, and healthcare. Ensure all incarcerated and staff are provided with protections. Allow free calls to families. We endorse the demands of the ACLU of WI.
- \*Direct Wisconsin State Police to refrain from aiding ICE's persecution of undocumented members of our community.
- \*Increase support for public schools to provide continuous, equitable and quality remote learning access for the duration of any school closures, and for schools to continue to provide social services for qualifying children and families.
- \*Condemn and hold individuals and groups accountable for any hate crimes, racism or discrimination related to COVID-19 misinformation, which has been especially impacting Asian-

Americans, undocumented and unhoused residents in our communities.

\*Address environmental injustice in our state - most COVID-19 victims are persons with respiratory diseases and cancer, which are linked to air and water pollutants. Poor and low-income Wisconsinites are more likely to be exposed to such pollutants.

\*Ensure that nobody — no individual or corporation or financial interest — profits off this public health crisis.

\*Collect and share data on how COVID-19 is impacting poor, low-income and low-wealth communities, including Wisconsin Indian communities.

We cannot return to normal, the way things have been so far. COVID-19 has revealed the need for a paradigm shift, the need for permanent, systemic changes that create conditions for the physical, social and economic health and well-being of individuals, households, neighborhoods, as well as towns and cities that have long suffered from unequal distribution of resources and wealth.

Now is the time for systemic change. Now is the time for new policies and practices that ensure that our abundant, national resources are used for our general welfare and to restore and strengthen our common, democratic institutions.