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Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:

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Senator Taylor's Statement on MSDF Death

(MADISON) – On Sunday, March 17, 2019, a fifty-one-year-old man, died while in custody at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF). Although resuscitation efforts were made by first responders, the inmate did not survive. While the city awaits the medical examiners, findings related to his death, the sign at the MSDF facility was covered in red paint to symbolize the community's frustration with yet another loss of life of an inmate while in custody. In response to the death, Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement:

“Like many residents, I was frustrated to learn of the death of an area man while in custody at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility. There are systems in place that should prevent unnecessary loss of life and access to prompt medical care when an emergency arises. As we wait for the medical examiner's report, I encourage patience in the community's response. We need to understand exactly what happened and why.

That said, I remain concerned about many of the issues that have plagued the facility for years. Whether over-crowding or poor heating conditions, MSDF remains a source of discontent. In 18 years of operation, more than 17 people have died. Inmates have attempted suicide when temperatures in the facility reached over 100 degrees. This loss of life, is just another reminder that we must move with deliberate speed to address the problems at MSDF or close it.”