

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 8, 2024

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The American Federation of Teachers Local 212 statement on the passing of Jonathan Brostoff

The American Federation of Teachers Local 212 and its members are deeply saddened by the passing of Milwaukee Common Councilman Jonathan Brostoff.

Jonathan was a passionate, intense, and energetic public official, a loving husband, and the father of 4 young children.

He was a valued friend of Local 212 and Milwaukee Area Technical College's faculty and students. He worked closely with Local 212 members to oppose misguided efforts at the state legislature to eliminate common sense occupational licensing standards. He understood that professional licenses were critical to public safety and elimination of these standards would harm consumers, as well as undermine professions. Ashante Reed, MATC barber/cosmetology faculty and AFT Local 212 Executive Board Member, reflected, "Jonathan was a passionate and tireless advocate for all professional occupations. I recall meeting Jonathan and being introduced to legislation that targeted occupational license holders. In the time we worked together, I learned so much about political advocacy. He sought us out, listened to our concerns, walked us through the legislative process, and led our fight against deregulation. He hosted a Pride in Professionals event celebrating occupational licensing, bringing together various people and community groups. His loss is incalculable."

AFT Local 212 President Dr. Lisa Conley remarked, "Jonathan, an MPS graduate, was a fierce advocate for public education. Clear about the threat posed by privatization, he worked closely with Local 212 in the community's fight to stop for-profit colleges from preying on Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods and students. He was thoughtful, energetic, and dedicated to social justice. He cared deeply for Milwaukee's people and the city. He will be deeply missed."

We join his parents, wife, Diana, children and friends in mourning his untimely passing. Jonathan Brostoff truly made a difference, and we will do our part to preserve his legacy, carrying his work forward.