



PRESS RELEASE – August 22, 2008

Jill Malak, Communications Representative
608-662-1444 ext 222
608-770-0498

AFT-Wisconsin endorses Barbara Toles for 17th District Assembly

Milwaukee, Wis. – AFT-Wisconsin has announced their endorsement of Barbara Toles, incumbent candidate in the 17th District Assembly primary. Toles received the endorsement based on the recommendation of AFT-Wisconsin's Committee on Political Education.

Bryan Kennedy, president of AFT-Wisconsin, indicated that Toles' endorsement was an easy decision. "Whether fighting to bring living wage jobs into the community or taking on special interests to make quality health care available to all, Rep. Toles has been an outspoken advocate for her community and for the citizens of the State of Wisconsin. Barbara Toles has proven herself to be a truly progressive leader, and it is AFT-Wisconsin's honor to endorse her candidacy."

Kennedy added that AFT-Wisconsin's endorsement of Toles was based in part on her record in the Wisconsin State Assembly. "Holding a 100% voting record on AFT-Wisconsin issues, Rep. Toles is a champion for the 17,000 professional public employees who make up our union. In the short period of time that Rep. Toles has been in office, she has demonstrated her ability to work in a bipartisan manner, often times reaching across the aisle to move forward important legislation."

Marwill Santiago, Co-Chairperson of AFT-Wisconsin's Committee on Political Education, shared Kennedy's enthusiasm for the endorsement. "As an adjunct faculty member and community outreach specialist at Milwaukee Area Technical College and a former member of AFT-Wisconsin Local 212's executive board, Barbara has been a champion for the Wisconsin Technical College System and other public education institutions. She is a leader and a credit to the Wisconsin State Assembly."

Barbara Toles has represented the 17th Assembly District since 2004, when she won in a special election with over 80% of the vote. She faces reelection in the September 9 primary.