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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MTEA President Bob Peterson issued a statement in response to the MPS announcement of the layoffs of 519 school employees:

These are difficult times for everyone – for our students, our schools and our city.

Governor Scott Walker and Senator Alberta Darling, co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee, have slashed funding for public education across the state. For students, families, and educators of our district, the governor's unprecedented cuts are especially devastating.

Instead of creating jobs, Governor Walker and his Republican supporters have forced the elimination of hundreds of family-sustaining jobs in Milwaukee.

Last September, teachers bargained a concessionary contract with the school board that will save the district \$94 million over the next two school years. We call on community stakeholders, particularly the business community, to step up and help solve the district's immediate budget crisis by matching the \$94 million.

This would be a significant step toward providing Milwaukee children with the educational opportunities they deserve.

We remain committed to working with parents, community and religious groups, labor organizations, businesses, the MPS school board and the MPS administration to strengthen public education for the children of this city.

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