



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2020

Contact: Rep. David Bowen
(608) 266-7671

Rep. Bowen Statement on Passing of Foster Care Activist Dosha Joi

“DJay Was a Tireless Advocate, and the Light of This Young Leader Will Be Sorely Missed”

MILWAUKEE - Reflecting on the passing of foster care activist Dosha Joi (also known as “DJay”) from complications of COVID-19, State Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement:

“The news of DJay’s untimely passing is a huge loss not only for the foster children he worked with and advocated for, but for Wisconsin’s entire youth foster system. DJay was a true foster youth success story - despite having experienced different types of abuse while he was in foster care, DJay made it through and grew up to be an advocate for other youth making their way through the system while serving as a role model and real-life example for what those kids could grow up to be. DJay was a tireless advocate, and the light of this young leader will be sorely missed.”

Before his passing, Dosha was heavily involved in the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council, an organization which provides advice and guidance to state leaders on foster care issues. He also served as a court-appointed special advocate for youth aging out of the foster care system, worked as a substance abuse counselor in training and as an adjunct instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership, and was the recipient of two Champion for Change Awards from the Department of Children and Families.

“DJay’s passing stands as a stark reminder that the realities of COVID-19 are still with us, and that it does not discriminate based on age, background, or the contributions people have made to the world around them. May God watch over DJay’s family in this difficult time, and grant peace to them and all of the people whose lives DJay has touched. Rest in Peace and Power, young brother.”
