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## **Secretary Gassman: Governor's Plan Will Make Wisconsin America's Health Care Leader**

### *Bold Plan Will Cover All Children, Ensure Access for All Working Adults*

WAUSAU – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman said Monday that an estimated 110,000 uninsured children in Wisconsin would benefit from Governor Doyle's plan to ensure health care coverage for all Wisconsin children by expanding BadgerCare Plus.

"No child should go without health insurance, and BadgerCare Plus is at the heart of Governor Doyle's commitment to cover all children," Secretary Gassman said. "Under the Governor's plan, every family – regardless of income – will have the chance to buy coverage for their kids, starting at \$10 a month. And no family will be denied coverage for their child just because their income goes up."

At a town hall meeting on health care in Wausau today, Secretary Gassman outlined Governor Doyle's plan to make Wisconsin America's health care leader. The Governor's plan would make sure Wisconsin's uninsured children have health coverage, as well as cover low-income adults and more pregnant women and extend comprehensive health care coverage to 98 percent of Wisconsin citizens.

Specifically, the Governor's health care plan would:

- Offer health coverage to every child in Wisconsin. Low-income families would simply enroll their children into BadgerCare Plus, while families at higher incomes would be able to buy into the program, starting at about \$10 a month.
- Expand coverage to 71,000 working adults without children who make up to 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Create a purchasing pool to help businesses – particularly small businesses – afford catastrophic health coverage for employees.
- Invest \$30 million to help doctors and hospitals use technology to eliminate costly medical errors.

BadgerCare Plus will be funded by streamlining Medicaid, BadgerCare, and Healthy Start into one comprehensive program.

"Under Governor Doyle's plan, Wisconsin will have a higher percentage of its citizens with health care coverage than any other state in the nation," Secretary Gassman said.