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## **Wisconsin Congressman Obey Wins National Award for Stellar Support of Workforce System throughout Career in U.S. House of Representatives**

### ***Congressman honored at National Association of State Workforce Agencies Conference***

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today congratulated Congressman David Obey for receiving the 2010 President's Award from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) for extraordinary service in support of employment and training programs for workers throughout his career.

"Congressman Obey has worked tirelessly to the benefit of working families in Wisconsin and across this nation," Secretary Gassman said. "His strong support of workforce systems throughout his career also has greatly benefited employers who need skilled workers. In Wisconsin, we are proud to claim him as our own. He serves as a great example to all who aspire to leadership and public service."

NASWA President Karen Lee presented Congressman Obey with the 2010 President's Award during the association's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

"There has been no greater supporter of the workforce system during his 41 years in Congress than David Obey," said NASWA President Lee, who is Commissioner of the State of Washington Department of Employment and Security. "He was the principal architect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which infused over \$4 billion into workforce systems."

Congressman Obey became the youngest member of Congress in 1969 when he was elected at the age of 30. Re-elected 18 times, he is Wisconsin's longest-serving member of Congress. He previously served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1963 to 1969. Receiving the award on his behalf was his sister, Diane O. Peltin, a Wisconsin DWD administrator until her retirement in 2005.

Congressman Obey was one of three members of Congress honored with the President's Award, presented to an individual or organization for extraordinary service to America's workforce development system. Also honored were U.S. Senator Max Baucus of Montana, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and Congressman Jim McDermott of Washington.

NASWA President Lee also honored Secretary Gassman, presenting her with a plaque thanking her and DWD staff, including Administrative Services Division Administrator Susan Canty, for their extraordinary support in organizing and hosting the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.