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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **Secretary Gassman Elected to National Academy of Social Insurance**

### ***State Labor Secretary invited to join distinguished panel of national experts on social policy***

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman has been elected to the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI), consisting of the nation's leading experts on social insurance programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation.

"At a time when U.S. social insurance programs are continuously capturing news headlines and the attention of policymakers, NASI looks forward to recognizing, using, and sustaining the expertise of our new members," NASI President Janice Gregory said in a press release announcing Secretary Gassman and 41 other new members of the organization, which now has over 800 members. "As NASI members, these dedicated public servants, business leaders, legal experts, professors, administrators, and advocates have – and will continue to play – an important role in strengthening social insurance and economic security for Americans."

As the NASI release notes, "Academy members are recognized experts in Social Security, Medicare and health coverage, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and related social assistance and private employee benefits. Individuals selected for membership have distinguished themselves by improving the quality of research, administration, or policymaking in one or more of these areas."

As the NASI release continues, "Membership in NASI is an honor for which individuals are nominated by two current Academy members."

A member of Governor Doyle's Cabinet since 2003, Secretary Gassman has led efforts to strengthen Wisconsin's workforce and meet the needs of job seekers, working families and employers. With 1,645 employees, DWD provides employment and training services, works with employers to fill jobs, enforces workers' rights, and administers the Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation programs.

In April, Secretary Gassman received the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work. She earned her B.A. in social work, with distinction, and her M.S.S.W. in 1972, also from UW-Madison.

Secretary Gassman is a member of TEMPO and Rotary. She has also been a member of various state and national boards including the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Council on Workforce Investment, the Wisconsin PK-16 Council and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), serving as the past Chair of the NASWA Workforce, Employment and Training Committee.

For more information about NASI, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization made up of the nation's leading experts on social insurance, and a link to the organization's press release, see: [www.nasi.org](http://www.nasi.org).