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Thursday, February 8, 2007

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Secretary Gassman outlines Governor's Working Family Agenda *In remarks to service agencies, she discussed health, education, new agency*

Wisconsin Dells – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman today addressed the Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies in Wisconsin Dells. During her address she reiterated Governor Jim Doyle's State of the State message that Wisconsin can lead the nation in health care reform, providing coverage for all children and hardworking families of the state.

"Wisconsin has a proud history and under Governor Doyle's leadership, we can reinforce our progressive tradition by showing other states the way to health care reform," Secretary Gassman said.

She further highlighted a number of initiatives the Governor unveiled in his recent State of the State address, proposals which will be carried forward in his state budget, which he will present on Tuesday, February 13th:

- BadgerCare Plus coverage for every child, allowing low-income families to simply enroll, while permitting those with higher incomes to buy coverage, starting at \$10 a month;
- Expansion of BadgerCare Plus coverage to include low-income adults without children;
- Launch of the Wisconsin Covenant, a promise to Wisconsin eighth-graders that if they work hard, earn good grades, participate in their community, and be good citizens during high school, they will be guaranteed a spot in one of Wisconsin's universities or technical colleges;
- Creation of the Department of Children and Families dedicated to improving the lives of children and families. The new agency would draw programs, such as child support and Wisconsin Works, from DWD, and foster care and child care licensing, from the Department of Health and Family Services.

"We have made tremendous progress in the Governor's first term, and building on that success, the Governor has presented even more opportunities to improve the lives children and families," Secretary Gassman said. "Investing in our children and families is a solid investment in our future."

As a member of Governor Doyle's cabinet, she leads the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and oversees 1,900 employees charged with strengthening Wisconsin's workforce.