

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us
Website: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

CONTACT: Jessica Erickson, Director of Communications, 608-266-6753

Statement from Secretary Gassman on JFC Passing Governor's Proposal to Create New Department on Children & Families

Will Be Wisconsin's First Cabinet Agency Devoted Exclusively to Kids, Families

MADISON – Today, the Joint Finance Committee voted 11-5 along bipartisan lines to approve Governor Jim Doyle's budget proposal to create a new Department on Children and Families. The Governor's proposal will merge child welfare, child support, child care services, and the W-2 program into a single, unified agency. The merger will improve coordination of services, reduce duplication, and build further accountability in government for the welfare of children and families.

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman released the following statement:

"I am very pleased that the Joint Finance Committee approved Governor Doyle's proposal today to create a new Department on Children and Families.

"This new Department will streamline services for children and families to make sure all Wisconsin children grow up safe, healthy, and with the support of strong families.

"Since 1989, Wisconsin has had a Cabinet-level Department devoted to prisoners, but not one devoted to our kids. The Department of Children and Families will be Wisconsin's first Cabinet agency devoted exclusively to helping and protecting our most vulnerable children and families.

"By streamlining services, we will ensure that children receive the support they need and that their families are able to easily navigate the services available to them. This reorganization will also enable DWD to focus specifically on ensuring a highly trained, highly skilled workforce, growing our economy, and creating family-supporting jobs."