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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

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Secretary Gassman Announces Safety Calendar Art Contest

Workforce Development Secretary enlists Wisconsin Boys & Girls Club members in safety campaign

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced the start of the third annual Safety Calendar Art Contest, with a new incentive for members of Wisconsin Boys and Girls Clubs to enter and help the agency promote safety in the workplace. In addition to certificates signed by Governor Jim Doyle and Secretary Gassman, winners of the 2008 Safety Calendar Art Contest will receive \$25 each. The young artist with the winning cover illustration will receive \$50.

“With an added incentive this year, we want to encourage greater participation and reward the winners for their hard work and creativity in helping us promote safety in the workplace,” Secretary Gassman said. “The Safety Calendar Art Contest is part of broad effort to prevent injuries on the job, maintain a healthy, productive workforce, and keep our economy growing.”

For a leading industrial state, Wisconsin has a good workplace safety record, which is one reason why the state has one of the best worker’s compensation programs in the nation with comparatively low rates. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wisconsin’s injury and illness rate among workers has declined steadily in recent years.

“Wisconsin has a proud history when it comes to workers and their safety, but as good as our safety record is, we can always improve,” Secretary Gassman said. “Accidents and injuries can occur any time, any place. We can minimize the risk of injury by making safety part of our culture.”

Secretary Gassman urged Boys and Girls Club members to talk to their parents about their work and job safety to get ideas for illustrating safety tips. The deadline for contest entries is July 20. Secretary Gassman will lead a panel of judges in selecting the winners this fall. In December, DWD’s Division of Worker’s Compensation will mail 4,500 calendars to employers for display in worksites throughout the state.

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