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## **Statement from Secretary Gassman on JFC Passing Governor's Youth Apprenticeship Budget Provision**

### *Doubling Funding Will Help Ensure Skilled Workforce, Grow State's Economy*

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman released the following statement today after the Joint Finance Committee voted 11-5 along bipartisan lines to approve Governor Doyle's budget proposal to double funding for the successful Youth Apprenticeship program:

*"Youth Apprenticeship is one of the best investments we can make to train our young people for our workforce, grow our economy, create family-supporting jobs, and maintain our quality of life.*

*"By investing in the Youth Apprenticeship program, our state can ensure a skilled workforce and sustained economic growth for years to come. This popular school-to-work program not only helps students explore career options while gaining skills and work experience, it also helps employers recruit and train workers.*

*"Youth Apprenticeship is a powerful tool for the youth of today and the employers of tomorrow. I am very pleased that the Joint Finance Committee voted today to approve Governor Doyle's investment in Youth Apprenticeship."*

Governor Doyle's budget would double Youth Apprenticeship funding to \$2.2 million, creating school-to-work opportunities for 4,000 high school students a year. In 2005-06, 100 percent of the youth apprentices graduated and received a high school diploma. Eight of 10 apprenticeship students get job offers when they graduate, and those who continue their education do better than other students.

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Youth Apprenticeship program. As of this spring, more than 10,000 Wisconsin high school students will have graduated from the program.