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January 22, 2009

Ms. Roberta Gassman, Secretary
Department of Workforce Development
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946

Dear Secretary Gassman:

We are writing in our capacity as chair and vice chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of addressing the workforce needs in the long-term care industry. This letter sets forth a committee recommendation regarding this issue.

The need for workers in the long-term care industry will continue to increase as a result of the aging population in Wisconsin. Workforce shortages in the long-term care industry impact the quality of care that is provided to consumers of long-term care services. The Special Committee has heard testimony regarding the need to retain and recruit long-term care workers, as well as address training standards and inefficiencies. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) specifically address workforce needs in the long-term care industry.

The Special Committee hopes that DWD will make workforce needs in the long-term care industry a top priority as DWD continues to address workforce needs in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions, please contact Jessica Karls or Scott Grosz, Legislative Council Staff Attorneys.

Representative Pat Strachota
Chair, Special Committee on
Building Wisconsin's Workforce

Sincerely,

Senator Robert Wirch
Vice Chair, Special Committee on
Building Wisconsin's Workforce

PS:RW:ksm

cc: Gary Denis, Bureau of Workforce Training, DWD
Hector Colon, Executive Assistant, DWD