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NEWS RELEASE:  
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## **Senator Cowles Issues Statement on Governor Walker's State of the State Address: Continued Focus on Workforce is Important to Wisconsin's Economy**

MADISON- "I applaud Governor Walker's focus on developing our workforce during this evening's State of the State Address. Wisconsin has continued to increase our efforts to address workforce development, but there is still work to be done. In the past, we have worked together to create innovative programs including the revamped [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://JobCenterofWisconsin.com) website, which currently has 80,000 available jobs, and the Wisconsin Fast Forward Program to tackle the challenging issues surrounding workforce readiness and increase hiring for in-need labor markets.

"I wish to continue the focus on these vital efforts in the upcoming session in order to address employment sectors that are struggling to find qualified employees, including healthcare, construction and manufacturing. I also wish to continuing building on the success of the Project Search program to help persons with disabilities in finding employment. I look forward to working with Governor Walker and my colleagues in the Legislature to tackle these issues that are imperative in moving Wisconsin's economy forward."

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