

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Sen. Cowles Supports Governor's efforts to support Financial Stability**

GREEN BAY- Today, Governor Walker announced the "Wisconsin Works for Everyone" package at the Brown County offices in Green Bay. Expanding upon initiatives enacted into law by Governor Tommy Thompson in the 1990's, the package aims to support those on public assistance towards financial stability and self-sustainability.

"As I talk to people throughout my district, at job fairs or at the Green Bay Job Center, one of the biggest impediments to transitioning from public assistance to self-sustainability is not work ethic or education, but the disruption that comes when you no longer qualify for public assistance benefits during a financially sensitive time in one's life. When you are just starting to get on your feet financially and you abruptly lose food benefits, child care, healthcare or even possibly your home, it's very challenging to continue that positive momentum. Implementing some quality reforms to lighten this drastic shift, known as a "benefit cliff", can alleviate some of the challenges for those on public assistance," said Senator Cowles (R-Green Bay).

The package, as outlined, will focus on reducing the benefit cliffs of several public assistance programs. Additionally, "Wisconsin Works for Everyone" will initiate efforts for individuals already working to stay working and increase employee retention, workforce reentry, reduce employment disincentives, and continue to work with individuals with disabilities to get a job and earn money within the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP).

"While I still would like to see the fiscal analysis of the various programs that are being proposed, this is certainly a laudable effort that I hope will have a positive impact on the lives of Wisconsinites. Reducing the barriers to employment is the next step in the mission to get more Wisconsinites working and create an environment for jobs and employment. I look forward to working with the Governor and my legislative colleagues on a balanced reform package," Cowles continued.

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