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## KATHLEEN VINEHOUT

### STATE SENATOR

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#### **Senator Vinehout announces “Healthy Wisconsin” plan**

“Wisconsin will lead the nation in providing real health care reform. Healthy Wisconsin is an innovative solution that expands coverage while reducing costs,” State Senator Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) announced. “Every man, woman and child who now lives in Wisconsin will have access to affordable health care.”

“Before I was elected I had no health insurance,” Vinehout said. “I went to Madison to bring everyone the same health care benefits I gained when I was sworn into office. As Vice-Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, I worked hard with my colleagues to write a plan that would bring health care reform to Wisconsin.”

The new “Healthy Wisconsin: Your Choice, Your Plan” covers all those not covered by public programs like Medicare, Badger Care or Medicaid. Under the plan, state residents will have a choice of doctors and plans with the same benefit package as state legislators.

Vinehout explained that under the plan, premiums are paid through payroll deductions. To guarantee fairness, the amount of the premium is based on how much people earn. “The plan will stabilize the cost of health care which relieves employers from the burden of double-digit premium increases and unexpected denials of claims,” said Vinehout. “This helps employers predict costs and focus on growing their business.”

“Our current health care system is terribly inefficient. We pay \$.29 of every dollar for administration. This plan dramatically saves money by streamlining administration and cutting waste,” Vinehout added. “An independent study shows an estimated \$1.02 billion in savings in a single year under the Healthy Wisconsin Plan. These are savings that could offer real property tax relief.”

Vinehout noted that cost containment measures included in the plan are expected to reduce long term health care spending. “Savings are achieved by streamlined administration and lowering drug costs through bulk purchasing. Chronic Disease Management Programs coordinate care and lower costs for the chronically ill. Physicians are rewarded for using efficient evidence-based medicine. Patients are rewarded for making healthy lifestyle changes and using preventive care.”

“No one should have to plan their life around health insurance,” Vinehout said. “This plan cuts the connection between health care coverage and a particular job. People will be covered no matter what job they have – or what kind of business they decide to start. People will be free to take the job of their dreams.”

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