



State Senator
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8th Senate District



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For Immediate Release
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Ending the "Cliff Effect"

Darling Sponsors Resolution Asking for Waiver to Create Sliding Scale of Benefits

Madison - The safety net often becomes a snare to success. It's called the "cliff effect" and it can stop people from seeking promotions or better jobs.

Moving up can mean missing out on child care subsidies that allow a person to work in the first place. State Senator Alberta Darling says Wisconsin should ask the federal government for a waiver to create a sliding scale of benefits.

"If someone can't afford to take the next step, they won't get over the finish line to independence," Darling said, "We should be doing as much as we can to help people remove themselves from a reliance on government."

Currently, a family of four earning 185% of the federal poverty level (\$44,868) is eligible for the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. However, a modest raise would make the family ineligible for child care help while the raise would not cover the cost of child care. Senator Darling says a sliding scale may help end the "cliff effect."

"I've heard from employers who have had great employees turn down opportunities because of the 'cliff effect,'" Darling said, "Wisconsin is a leader in welfare reform and it's time to do it again."

On Monday, Senator Darling circulated legislation to ask the Departments of Health Services and Children and Families to seek a waiver for a sliding scale benefit program from the federal government.

Senator Darling represents portions of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha Counties.

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