

# Sen. Vinehout: Statement on the State of the State

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(MADISON) Sen. Kathleen Vinehout – D-Alma, released the following statement prior to the Governor’s State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature.

“The State of the State should be measured by how each of us is doing in our own lives. By that measure, we are not doing well.

“Wages are 18<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country. We are last in business start-ups. We are third worst for affordable family-based infant childcare, making holding a job difficult and expensive.

“Public schools in our communities are getting less from the state in real dollars than ten years ago, forcing many to pass referenda to increase local property taxes to keep schools open. Our student debt per graduate is eighth highest in the country.

“State sales tax revenue is up, but mostly because we are increasing our own consumer debt at an unsustainable rate.

“We need a new vision, one that puts people first. Governor Walker’s focus on tax credits and cash payments to large corporations has not worked. Investing in our human potential, providing the resources people need to be productive, is the surest way to improve the state of the State.”