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**GROUP INSURANCE BOARD SHOULD HALT SELF-INSURANCE DELIBERATIONS  
Future of ACA and other fundamental questions remain**

MADISON – Yesterday, the Group Insurance Board (GIB) continued their deliberations about fundamentally altering Wisconsin’s state employee health insurance program. The board is considering two separate proposals – one would transition Wisconsin’s state employee health insurance program to a self-funded model while the other proposal would split program state employees into four separate service area regions, limiting the number of health plans from which employees could choose. Either option fundamentally alters Wisconsin’s health care terrain which will have long-term, significant consequences for Wisconsin and taxpayers.

Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) issued the following statement:

“While it’s unfortunate the GIB went into closed session to discuss fundamentally altering Wisconsin’s health care landscape and Wisconsin’s employee health insurance programs for over 200,000 Wisconsinites, it is crystal clear from their initial comments yesterday morning that the GIB would be acting exceedingly reckless to move forward with either proposal. The speculation on any cost savings comes from further requiring public employees to pick up the tab, resulting in essentially more wage cuts for public workers, or avoiding certain Affordable Care Act regulations that may be gutted anyway under the Trump regime. Another consultant has cautioned that moving to a self-insurance scheme could cost the state millions of dollars, at a time when public dollars are scarce due to the Republican’s massive corporate tax giveaways and tax breaks for the most wealthy.

“The GIB admitted yesterday that they only have incomplete data from the health insurance companies that hampers their ability to move forward in up-ending the healthcare of hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites, especially when the consequences could be even higher premiums and losing your trusted physician. Relying on dubious reports from an out-of-state consultant telling the Walker administration what they are paid to say is simply not good enough. It would be careless and irresponsible of the GIB to move forward with either proposal at this time given the uncertainty and lack of information available. They need to shelve these proposals.”

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