



Wisconsin State Senate
Senator Tim Carpenter
Third District

December 8, 2016

Group Insurance Board
c/o Board Liaison
Department of Employee Trust funds
P.O. Box 7931
Madison WI 53707

Dear Members of the Group Insurance Board,

I am sending this letter prior to your December 13, 2016 meeting to express my strong opposition to the proposal to change the state employee health insurance system to a self-insured model. This will affect the private health insurance market in Wisconsin with possible negative consequences on consumers.

A wholesale disruption of the system of healthcare for 200,000 Wisconsinites should be done through an open deliberative process of open hearings with opportunities for healthcare providers, healthcare consumers and their families to provide input, concerns, data, experience and expertise.

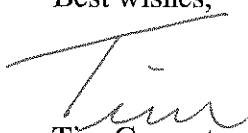
I am concerned that the risks of a precipitous change could disrupt healthcare access for consumers. My constituents are concerned that such a change could be a prelude to a degradation of the quality or type of care available to them.

For reference, this last legislative session there was an attempt to make wholesale changes to the FamilyCare and IRIS programs that provide care of many of my constituents. These changes were attempted to be made without identifying any troubles or inadequacies of the current system. This attempt caused great anxiety in my constituents, who did not know how to plan for their future. I fear that this Board's actions will similarly ignite legitimate concerns in 200,000 healthcare consumers in our state.

Further it is apparent that some of the expected cost savings would come from avoiding costs or burdens under the Affordable Care Act. At a time when the incoming presidential administration and majority in Congress are actively discussing repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, the reliance on ACA savings seems both tenuous, unreliable, and unwise.

I strongly oppose this proposal.

Best wishes,


Tim Carpenter
State Senator