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## CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 8, 2013  
**TO:** Group Insurance Board  
**FROM:** Tarna Hunter, Legislative Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Update

**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

This memorandum provides information on pertinent legislative issues to the Group Insurance Board (Board).

The following bills, introduced this session, impact the Board.

- **2013 AB 216 (Jacque) and 2013 SB 202 (Grothman)** – The bills prohibit the group insurance board from contracting for or providing abortion services, except to save the life of the woman or in a case of sexual assault or incest. The bills also exempt religious employers, religious organizations, and religious institutions of higher education from contraceptive insurance coverage. In June, the Assembly passed AB 216 (58-39). The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. On November 7, 2013, the Senate Committee passed both bills 3-2.
- **2013 AB 139 (Ott) and 2013 SB 137 (Grothman)** – The bills provide that doctors would only have to inform patients about treatment options a reasonable doctor would know or disclose under the circumstances. Doctors would not be required to disclose information about alternate modes of treatment for conditions the physician has not included in his or her diagnosis at the time the physician informs the patient. 2013 AB 139 passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- **2013 AB 331 (Wachs)** – The bill repeals the 2013 Act 20 requirement that OSER and ETF jointly study the feasibility of excluding from state employee health insurance coverage a spouse or domestic partner who has health

Reviewed and approved by Robert Marchant, Deputy Secretary

Electronically Signed  
11/11/13

| Board | Mtg Date | Item # |
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insurance available from his or her employer and evaluate the creation of a \$2,000 incentive payment program for state employees that opt not to take health insurance through the state. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

- **2013 SB 300 (Darling) and 2013 AB 392 (Strachota)** – The bills prohibit health insurance policies, and self-insured governmental and school district health plans, that cover injected or intravenous and oral chemotherapy from requiring the insured to pay a higher copayment, deductible, or coinsurance for oral chemotherapy than is required for injected or intravenous chemotherapy. A health insurance policy or plan may not comply with the prohibition by increasing the copayment, deductible, or coinsurance for intravenous or injected chemotherapy that is covered under the policy or plan. The bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance and Housing and the Assembly Committee on Health, respectively. The Senate Committee held a public hearing on 2013 SB 300 in October. The Assembly Committee on Health has a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at 1:00 pm in 225 NW, State Capitol.

I will be available at the November 12, 2013, Board meeting to answer questions.