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## CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 17, 2014  
**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 items of legislation, introduced this session, impact the Board or the programs it oversees.

- **2013 Act 111** – The Act provides that doctors would have to inform patients only 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 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. At this time, neither bill is scheduled for action by the full Senate.
- **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 insurance available from his or her employer and evaluate the creation of a

Reviewed and approved by Robert J. Marchant, Deputy Secretary

Electronically signed:  
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\$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. ETF has completed necessary preliminary research on this study and is in the process of engaging the program's actuaries for further analysis.

- **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, October 13, 2013, at 1:00 pm in 225 NW, State Capitol. On January 30, 2014, the Senate Committee passed the bill 5-0. At this time, the Senate has not scheduled the bill for floor action.
- **2013 AB 557 (Ott)** – This bill is a technical fix eliminating obsolete language related to University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority and health insurance premium credits. It eliminates a statutory provision that relates to University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority (UWHCA) employees whose compensation is established in a collective bargaining agreement under the Employment Peace Act." 2011 Wisconsin Act 10 eliminated the part of the Employment Peace Act" that allowed collective bargaining for employees of the UWHCA, thereby making this statutory provision obsolete.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer questions.