

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2016

EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CC 16-062



To whom it may concern:

I am a faculty member at UW-Milwaukee, and have declined/waived health insurance from the State (which I am entitled to as an employee) for some time (over 10 years), as I have coverage through my spouse's employer. Thus, every year I am saving the State thousands of dollars, and over the last decade have likely saved the State over \$10,000.

Therefore, I was intrigued when I heard about the health-insurance "opt-out incentive" program, which was instituted in 2016. I thought, "at last" I am finally going to be given some recognition and partial remuneration for the money I am saving the State by declining health coverage. However, when I went to fill out the paperwork I found the "catch". Only those who actually had taken State health coverage in 2015 are eligible for the \$2000 incentive! So folks like me who continue to save the State real money each year, through declining health coverage, are snubbed and ignored. It is what I have come to expect from the governor and the legislature, so it is not surprising.

I realize that ETF can only act on what is given them as law, but this is grossly unfair, and our Benefits office suggested that I could at least register my strong objection and disgust to how I am once again being further disrespected as a loyal State employee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark D. Schwartz".

Mark D. Schwartz





STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
Robert J. Conlin
SECRETARY

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December 7, 2016

MARK SCHWARTZ


Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Thank you for your letter outlining your concerns with the current Opt-out Incentive provision. I understand your frustration. As you detailed in your letter, the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) must administer this provision in accordance with current law.

ETF staff does track this type of correspondence and share the nature of concerns members raise when there are inquiries from a variety of authorities within the state.

We are here to answer any questions you might have related to Wisconsin Retirement System or State Group Health Insurance Benefits.

Sincerely,



Eileen Mallow, Deputy Director
Office of Strategic Health Policy

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