

Letter 31

Department of Employee Trust Funds
GIB Liaison
P.O. Box 7931
Madison, WI 53707-7931

To the Members of the Group Insurance Board,

It has come to my attention that you intend to reinstate transgender exclusions in your Wisconsin group health insurance plans. I am appalled. One is transgender by birth and not by choice and the high suicide rate among transgender individuals who do not receive adequate care is staggering, making this a matter of life and death.

The transgender students who have crossed my path are not going through a phase, but have instead experienced life-long struggles. This policy of excluding transgender patients from coverage is yet another obstacle put in their way.

I have been a proud employee of the University of Wisconsin for almost 30 years, but am truly and deeply ashamed that the state I have come to call home would take such a step.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Brantly', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Brantly
Birgit Baldwin Professor of Scandinavian Studies
Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic
University of Wisconsin Madison