

## Letter 32

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

To the Members of the Group Insurance Board,

I recently read that, as a board, you have reinstated transgender exclusions in Wisconsin group health insurance plans. I work as the Community Curator of Nordic-American Folklore in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and regularly interact with undergraduate and graduate students who are transgender. I am horrified that your board has chosen to discriminate against my students, colleagues, and friends by denying them the mental and physical health care that they require.

Your duty is to all Wisconsinites covered under the health insurance plans. Not just some. That you believe a total cost per member, per month of between \$0.05 and \$0.13 is enough to reinstate these exclusions demonstrates just out of touch you are with the people you serve and suggests that this discriminatory decision is purely political.

This type of decision is counter to the great traditions of this state. Already, students have told me they intend to leave Wisconsin as soon as they graduate, unwilling to live in a state that does not value their health and well-being. I do not blame them.

I urge you to repeal this exclusion.

Sincerely,



Marcus Cederström  
Community Curator of Nordic-American Folklore  
Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic