

Letter 34

Department of Employee Trust Funds GIB Liaison
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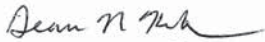
To the Members of the Group Insurance Board,

I have chosen to write in response to the recent reinstatement of transgender exclusions in your Wisconsin group health insurance plans. In my position as Assistant Professor in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic at UW-Madison, I interact with undergraduate and graduate students who are transgender. It is disheartening to see such exclusions reintroduced to your health insurance plans at a time when many of these students – and many other Wisconsinites and Americans – are struggling with their experiences as transgender people in non-inclusive settings. Many of us do what we can as educators and mentors to support these students, and it is horrible to know that important medical treatments that they require will not be covered.

Furthermore, these sorts of discriminatory policies are counter-productive if the state of Wisconsin aims to retain highly talented students after they graduate. Many highly qualified and talented individuals will now flee the state of Wisconsin as soon as they finish their degrees, if not before. That is hardly a result that any state should desire. Please do the right thing for transgender people in Wisconsin and for the state's reputation and ability to retain talent – repeal this exclusionary policy.

Sincerely,

Dean Krouk



Assistant Professor

Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic
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