

Letter 39

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

To the Members of the Group Insurance Board,

We are writing to you in response to the recent reinstatement of transgender exclusions in the Wisconsin group health insurance plan. We am deeply troubled that such institutionalized discrimination is taking place in our country.

This policy directly affects us as uncle/aunt of a transgender nephew living in Wisconsin. Please understand that being transgender is not a choice; one is transgender by birth. Many transgender people suffer greatly before seeking treatment, and the suicide rate among transgender people is extraordinarily high. This policy of excluding transgender patients from coverage is yet another obstacle put in their way. Medical treatments, such as hormone therapy or surgery, alleviate suffering and allow people to live with some sort of dignity. These treatments are not cosmetic or elective as is sometimes claimed. The refusal to cover appropriate treatment for transgender people is not only inhumane and unjust but also immoral.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider.

Sincerely,


Michael Pulsiano


Barbara Pulsiano