

## Letter 6

October 9, 2017

Mr. Michael Farrell, Chair  
Group Insurance Board  
P.O. Box 7931  
Madison, WI 53707-7931

Dear Mr. Farrell and other Board members:

The State of Wisconsin employees and retirees are currently in a period that new health insurance can be chosen. In my case, I have only the choice of leaving Humana Advantage and changing to Dean Care. While Dean Care might provide adequate health insurance, it does not cover Silver Sneakers/Optima as a benefit as the Humana Advantage Plan covered.

I am wondering if the Insurance Board considered this when choosing insurance plans. I do not think that I need to go into the benefits the State has and insurance companies have by having members, especially elderly members, that are healthy and work to maintain their health.

In our case, both my husband and I are at the gym 5 days a week. We take advantage of group health classes, the pool, floor, and gym equipment to keep up strength and good health. As a result, we have had very little need to make insurance claims.

As a result of not covering this benefit, we will have to consider whether to continue our workouts, as the gym membership costs to us as of January 1, 2018, will be \$45-65 a month (\$780/year). This will have to come out of our small State of Wisconsin pension and Medicare budget.

I cannot tell you how disappointed I was to learn of this change and hope the Board will make some effort to reinstate this benefit.

Thank you,



Karen R. Schmiechen

