

## Letter 7 and Attachment

**From:** HJ Waukau  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Coverage of Bariatric Procedures for State Employees  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 3:47:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[WMS-GIB BariatricLetter.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email the Wisconsin Medical Society's support for the coverage of bariatric procedures for Wisconsin's state employees. We will be happy to answer any questions the Board has about our request. Thank you.

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Wisconsin Medical Society

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# Wisconsin Medical Society

March 13, 2018

Group Insurance Board  
Board Liaison  
P.O. Box 7931  
Madison, WI 53707-7931

Dear Mr. Farrell:

In 2018 the Group Insurance Board (GIB) of Wisconsin removed bariatric surgery from its list of covered services for state employees. This makes Wisconsin one of only eight states that exclude this service for its state employees.<sup>1</sup>

**The Wisconsin Medical Society's policy supports full medical and surgical insurance coverage for evidence-based obesity care, which includes procedures such as bariatric surgery.**<sup>2</sup> Wisconsin has one of the higher rates of obesity in the nation, and with an aging population the health effects of obesity will be magnified. Bariatric surgery is a procedure that has been demonstrated to produce significant weight loss and improve the long-term health, both physically and psychologically, of those who receive it.<sup>3</sup>

**The Society urges the GIB to reinstitute bariatric surgery as a covered service for its members.** The Society also welcomes the opportunity to come before the GIB to speak on this issue, and to answer any questions the Board may have.

Sincerely,

Clyde "Bud" Chumbley, MD  
CEO Wisconsin Medical Society

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<sup>1</sup>[http://stopobesityalliance.org/wpcontent/themes/stopobesityalliance/pdfs/State\\_Employee\\_Health\\_Benefits\\_Plans\\_Treatment\\_of\\_Obesity\\_Interventions.pdf](http://stopobesityalliance.org/wpcontent/themes/stopobesityalliance/pdfs/State_Employee_Health_Benefits_Plans_Treatment_of_Obesity_Interventions.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/policies/obe-002-obesity-prevention/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23172552>