

# Letter 55

**From:** [Matt Rossetto](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** WDA Comment on Delta Dental Extension  
**Date:** Monday, November 12, 2018 2:05:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [ETF DDWI Plan Extension 11.12.18.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Please see the attached letter from Dr. Patrick Tepe, President of the Wisconsin Dental Association, regarding the proposed extension of Delta Dental of Wisconsin's contract as third party benefit administrator.

Please contact me with questions. Thank you,

Matt

Matt Rossetto  
Director of Government Services | Wisconsin Dental Association  
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November 12, 2018

Tricia Sieg  
Supplemental Plans Manager  
Office of Strategic Health Policy  
Department of Employee Trust Funds  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

RE: Delta Dental Contract Extension

Dear Ms. Sieg,

I write today regarding the request by the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) that the Group Insurance Board (GIB) approve an extension of the current agreement for Delta Dental of Wisconsin (DDWI) to administer the dental benefits contract for state employees.

This extension would take place more than one year ahead of the initial deadline of December 31, 2019, and gives no opportunity for other interested parties to comment, particularly on the plan design. The Wisconsin Dental Association has significant concerns regarding the lack of comprehensive coverage provided in the current plan. While it may be economical for the state, the current plan is simply "drill and fill". Finally, by making such a decision so early, the state denies itself and the taxpayers any opportunity to save money by allowing for other entities to bid.

In ordinary circumstances, the ability to purchase supplemental coverage could help alleviate this situation. However, as of January 2019, the state has decided to eliminate all providers of supplemental plans, save one—Delta Dental of Wisconsin. State employees now have one choice for their dental *and* supplemental plans. If state employees were allowed only one choice for their primary health care system, the objections would be significant, and rightly so.

Our simple request is that, rather than approve the contract extension so far in advance, the GIB conduct a genuine review of the plan design and allow for meaningful comment from oral health providers on the procedures covered within the plan, rather than simply focus on the bottom line. The Wisconsin Dental Association, which represents over 70% of the licensed dentists in Wisconsin, would be more than happy to host a meeting to discuss a more uniform, comprehensive design for state employees. You may contact our Director of Government Services, Matt Rossetto, at 608-250-3442, or [mrossetto@wda.org](mailto:mrossetto@wda.org).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Tepe'.

Patrick Tepe, DDS  
Verona, WI  
President, Wisconsin Dental Association