

June 27, 2022

Group Insurance Board of Wisconsin

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input/thoughts on the departure of WEA Trust from the health plan market. It is unfortunate that WEA Trust has decided to exit the market as they have provided excellent service, broad access to healthcare and overall great value as a consumer.

My wife and I have had WEA Trust coverage since retirement in 2015. We reside in Arizona and have found the coverage to be excellent. It allows us to access any provider, including Mayo Clinic, that best meets our healthcare needs. We are part of the approximately 6100 members of the IYC Medicare Plus product. The only other health plan that was available last year was UnitedHealthcare – which is very restrictive in terms of provider participation and geographic coverage.

We are concerned that there may not be a health plan available that will provide the same level of coverage and service that WEA Trust has provided. This would be extremely disruptive at a point in time when we have established various doctor relationships during a period in our lives when healthcare services are essential to our well-being.

We would encourage the Board to understand why WEA Trust is exiting the market in an effort to make it more palatable for future health plans to enter this market. If there are issues that the Board can address to alleviate these concerns that would be beneficial.

Finally, if there are no acceptable health plans available, we would hope that the Board/ETF would allow participants the ability to use their sick leave funds to purchase non- Board/ETF sponsored coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Mike/Maureen Buhl