

**From:** [John Grabel](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Cc:** [Patrick Wycoff](#)  
**Subject:** Adding Anti-Obesity Medications to the Group Health Insurance Program  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 4:09:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [AFSCME Council 32 - GIB AOM Letter.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached is a memo from AFSCME Council 32 Executive Director Patrick Wycoff in support of adding Anti-Obesity Medications to the Group Health Insurance Program.

Thank you,

John Grabel

**AFSCME**

608.279.9093

[jgrabel@afscme.org](mailto:jgrabel@afscme.org)

33 Nob Hill Road  
P.O. Box 8003  
Madison, WI 53708-8003



608-826-1932  
[www.afscme32.org](http://www.afscme32.org)

Date: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

To: The Group Insurance Board (GIB) [ETFSMBBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFSMBBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov)

From: Patrick Wycoff, Executive Director, AFSCME Council 32

Re: Adding anti-obesity medications to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program

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As Executive Director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 32, representing state employees across the state, we are writing to you regarding the consideration for anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to be added to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program so public employees have equitable access to the care they need. Healthcare providers have endorsed these medications to treat obesity without surgery or surgical after care. As part of a chronic weight loss or management program, these medicines have proved to increase an individual's weight loss over time and allowed individuals to decrease or even cease the use of other medications they have to use to combat the side-effects of chronic obesity. Adding AOMs to the health insurance program for public employees can lead to numerous benefits, such as improved health outcomes and quality of life for members as well as increased productivity on the job.

Wisconsin's communities never rest. The work AFSCME members do matters because it means something to make our community better. Our members provide the vital services that make Wisconsin happen. We believe everyone deserves a chance to fulfill the American dream - and that includes equitable access to healthcare.

As state employees in Wisconsin, our members deserve to have access to the same quality of care their peers have in all our neighboring states. Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan have already taken the crucial step in ensuring their public employees have access to AOMs, and many private sector employees have access to these treatments as well.

Including AOMs in the state employee health insurance plan not only brings us up to speed with our peers; it can aid in productivity at work as well. If members have access to AOMs in their health insurance plan, individuals may be able to improve their energy levels, reduce absenteeism, and increase productivity at work. Wisconsin public employees will not only have access to the same care as other states; we can also be competitive in productivity and employee satisfaction.

Allowing these medications with prior authorization to be covered by ETF medical insurance plan not only offers an affordable, convenient option for individuals needing to lose weight and manage their chronic disease, but also would show members that the State of Wisconsin benefit plans meet their employee's needs. The Wisconsin Medicaid program offers anti-obesity medication as a benefit to their recipients. We are asking the GIB to add AOMs to the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program as well.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.