

From: [Miranda Newman](#)
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Request for Domestic Partnership Coverage
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 12:13:16 PM

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Hello,

It was recommended by Ginger Williamson that I contact the ETF Board with my feedback.

I am reaching out to ask for the consideration of including life insurance options for domestic partnerships outside of legal marriage. I have been with my partner for 10 years and we have two children together. We are not yet, nor plan to, legally wed. This is for several reasons, most importantly our moral and religious beliefs.

I have found it very difficult to obtain life insurance coverage for my partner despite several options provided to me through my employer. I currently have more coverage for my two minor children than I can obtain for my partner. He is an integral contributor to our family both emotionally and financially. It is important that in the event of an unfortunate accident I would be able to continue to care for my children independently and maintain financial stability through what would be an emotionally tumultuous time. I know I am not the only person who is in need of this type of coverage considering the steadily decreasing percentage of couples legally marrying in the United States in recent years.

In addition to considering my request, I would like to ask for the information of anyone who I could contact to increase the visibility of my request within the organization.

Thank you,
Miranda Newman





STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
A. John Voelker
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department
of Employee Trust Funds
PO Box 7931
Madison WI 53707-7931
1-877-533-5020 (toll free)
Fax 608-267-4549
etf.wi.gov

February 28, 2023

Miranda Newman
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Newman:

Thank you for your email to the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) requesting life insurance coverage for your domestic partner outside of legal marriage. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

Effective January 1, 2018, domestic partners and their children were no longer eligible for life insurance coverage as a result of the changes made by 2017 Wisconsin Act 59. This eliminated both the domestic partnership eligibility for benefits as well as the registry that had been in place for several years prior to this legal change. As a result, the life insurance contract was amended to remove domestic partner eligibility and changed the definition of “family status change event” to remove “establishing a domestic partnership” as a qualifying event. Because of the change to state law, ETF does not have the authority to restore coverage for domestic partners.

However, Governor Evers has included restoration of domestic partner benefits in his 2023–2025 biennial budget. If this is passed, or the legislature passes a similar bill, ETF would be able to restore coverage.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

Tom Rasmussen, Life and Dental Insurance Program Manager
Office of Strategic Health Policy
Department of Employee Trust Funds
Tom.Rasmussen@etf.wi.gov
608-266-0994.

cc: Renee Walk, ETF