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STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7931
Attn: Mr. Robert Conlin, Secretary

Dear Mr. Conlin:

I am a retired state employee with 30 years of service. I worked in customer service for that time with the [REDACTED]

Our unused sick leave was put in escrow so when we retired, we could use it for health insurance. Some of us could not take advantage of this account as we got our health insurance from another source or a good policy was not available to use in the county we lived in.

I have had an escrow account [REDACTED] for some years without the ability to use it. I have called and asked your office about this account several times. The answer is always the same. Health insurance or lose it. Really, what is fair about that. I know teachers who are also employees of the state that can use it for uncovered health issues.

I recently had [REDACTED]

Do you think it would be reasonable for an employee to use that escrowed savings to pay for these things that are unaffordable? If this accommodation works for other state employees, why can't it work for [REDACTED] employees as well. If I am unable to ever use this account, myself and all others like me just lose it to the state. I believe that is not fair. Is there anything you can do to change this unfair policy.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hausdorf



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

July 12, 2024

Darlene Hausdorf
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Hausdorf,

Thank you for speaking with me on June 17, 2024, regarding the letter you sent to the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Secretary regarding using your escrowed sick leave to pay for things other than health insurance [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As we discussed, Wisconsin State Statutes only allow for state employee escrowed sick leave to pay for health insurance. Here is a link to [Wisconsin State Statute §40.04\(10\)](#) that states:

(10) An accumulated sick leave conversion account shall be maintained within the fund, to which shall be credited all money received under s. [40.05 \(4\) \(b\)](#), [\(bc\)](#), [\(bf\)](#), [\(bm\)](#), [\(br\)](#), and [\(bw\)](#) for health insurance premiums, as dividends or premium credits arising from the operation of health insurance plans and from investment income on any reserves established in the fund for health insurance purposes for retired employees and their surviving dependents, and for the payment of any employer share of OASDHI contributions for sick leave credits used to pay health insurance premiums for dependents who are not tax dependents under the Internal Revenue Code. Premium payments to health insurers authorized in s. [40.05 \(4\) \(b\)](#), [\(bc\)](#), [\(bf\)](#), [\(bm\)](#), and [\(bw\)](#) shall be charged to this account. This subsection does not prohibit the direct payment of premiums to insurers when appropriate administrative procedures have been established for direct payments.

As I mentioned on the phone, to change a state statute a bill would have to be introduced in the Wisconsin State Legislature, passed by both houses, and then signed into law by the Governor. Here is the link to Finding Your Legislator that we spoke about:
<https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?version=2022>

Here is the link to the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] As a reminder, during open enrollment for 2025, September 30, 2024, thru October 25, 2024, you will be able to go to this website and enroll for supplemental [REDACTED] coverage that will begin on January 1, 2025.

Page 2

Again, thank you for speaking with me on the phone and your letter to the Secretary. If you run into issues or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tricia Sieg
Pharmacy Benefits Program Manager
608-261-6006
Tricia2.sieg@etf.wi.gov