From: To:

ETF SMB Board Feedback

Date:

Friday, February 7, 2025 6:55:38 PM

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I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of including FDA-approved, doctor-prescribed anti-obesity medications in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) group health plans at your upcoming meeting on February 26, 2025.

Obesity is a chronic disease that significantly impacts the quality of life, longevity, and overall health of millions of individuals. It is strongly linked to serious and costly health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer, which not only pose long-term risks to individuals but also contribute to rising healthcare costs and reduced productivity. Providing access to effective treatments, including anti-obesity medications, is a critical step in addressing this public health challenge.

Many neighboring states, including Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, already offer these medications as part of their public employee health plans. Additionally, Wisconsin's Medicaid program and numerous private employers provide this coverage, recognizing the importance of these treatments in improving health outcomes and reducing long-term costs.

I believe that covering anti-obesity medications under WRS health plans is not only a matter of equity but also a sound investment in the health and well-being of Wisconsin's public employees. By ensuring access to these medications, you can help improve the quality of life for countless individuals and families while addressing the broader economic and societal impacts of obesity.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of including anti-obesity medications in WRS health plans. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this further.

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//Nicholas Schueller