

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cover medications for members
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025 8:36:12 AM

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Dear Group Insurance Board Members,

I'm a special education teacher who focuses on vocational instruction for students with disabilities in Milwaukee Public Schools. I've worked here for 22 years and am a proud member of WEAC, the largest labor union in Wisconsin with tens of thousands of members working across the state to provide a great education and support services to nearly 900,000 children and teens enrolled in our public schools.

I am writing today to respectfully request that this board reconsider its past decision refusing to expand coverage for the latest FDA approved anti-obesity medications (AOMs) to ensure that Wisconsin public employee benefits reflect the importance of our work to the functioning of our state and the quality of life that encourages people to live, work, and raise families here. As you know, Wisconsin is a regional outlier in not providing these benefits to its public employees. Fundamental fairness, public health, future budget savings and competitiveness as an employer of choice should dictate that Wisconsin join its peers in providing AOM coverage where clinically indicated by one's health care provider.

AOMs are known to help with weight loss and the extensive medical complications that come with carrying additional weight: type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke, some cancers, stress on joints, etc. As these medications continue to be studied we are discovering they have other benefits as well. From the standpoint of saving money on additional prescriptions and medical complications alone, you should cover the medication. Adding to that benefit, the improvement in quality of life, comfort of individuals and overall benefit to members and their families are more reasons to cover the medications. I have type 1 diabetes and am currently on an AOM. The benefits to me have been weight loss, better control of my blood sugar which leads to less damage to my vital organs, cells, overall physical comfort and mental clarity. Additionally the medication has reduced my stress which leads to better blood sugar for me as well because stress causes spikes in my blood sugar. I believe the medication has had a positive contribution to my overall mental health in addition to the improvement on my physical health. Consider reading this article, The Societal Value of Broader Access to Antiobesity Medications.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7003734/>

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Cara Callan

