

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF-SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: Insurance
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WEAC members will be impacted by an upcoming vote by the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Group Insurance Board (GIB) on whether to cover FDA-approved, doctor-prescribed anti-obesity medications in its group health plans.

All employees covered by the Wisconsin Retirement System have the option to select among a number of approved health plans under the GIB Uniform Benefits standards that all participating plans must adhere to. The board is made up of citizens from throughout Wisconsin appointed to two-year terms. The board is voting on this issue on February 26, 2025.

Obesity is a chronic disease that significantly impacts the quality of life and longevity of millions of people. The rise in obesity rates correlates strongly with associated dangerous and costly health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, immobility, and cancer, all of which pose serious long-term health risks, and contribute to skyrocketing healthcare costs and reduced worker productivity, among other negative health and economic affects.

Neighboring states including Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan offer anti-obesity medication as a benefit to their public employees, as do numerous other states and the federal government covered plans. Wisconsin's own Medicaid program covers these medications for its beneficiaries, as do many private and self-funded employers.

All WEAC members are urged to contact GIB before the February 26 meeting to advocate for inclusion of needed anti-obesity medications in health plans. Use the sample message below as a guide, individualize it according to your own experience, and send your message to the ETF/GIB email address at ETFSMBBoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov.

After sending to GIB, please forward a copy of your message to Reindlt@weac.org.

