

POWRS Action Alert

REMINDER: Contact Joint Finance Committee on Self-Insurance!

Since early February, the question of whether the State should self-insure the Group Health System for 250,000 public employees has been on the radar screen of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). As of April 26th, Employee Trust Funds (ETF) has not forwarded vendor contracts for JFC review, so their 21-day review period window keeps getting pushed farther out into May.

POWRS (Protect Our Wisconsin Retirement Security) along with numerous other annuitant, union, and health care organizations are deeply concerned about self-insurance for a variety of reasons:

- 1) The proposed \$60 million "savings" remains speculative at best and has not been confirmed by detailed financial studies.*
- 2) Altering Wisconsin's successful, HMO-based health marketplace can create many unintended consequences for non-state employees along with HMOs and their employees. None of these potential impacts have been thoroughly understood or researched.*
- 3) ETF has only promised stable benefits and premiums for 2018 under self-insurance. Significant new premium increases and/or benefit reductions could well occur beyond 2018 . . . and that is the last thing our hard-working public employees need.*
- 4) With changes occurring to Obama Care and the uncertainty surrounding our national insurance marketplace, significantly altering Wisconsin's stable, Group Health Plan seems especially risky at this time.*
- 5) The current HMO-based, fully insured system has not only proved efficient, but adaptable to changing conditions for nearly 30 years. Direct negotiations with vendors have saved the State \$283 million over the past 9 years. Why would we change a system that works? Let's work with our current HMO vendors to see what additional savings and benefits they can provide!*

The JFC is nervous about self-insurance and has raised many questions about it. Few members have shown enthusiasm for the concept. POWRS is asking anyone concerned about the Group Health Plan, WRS retiree health care, the future welfare of our hard-working public employees, and Wisconsin's health marketplace to contact JFC members one more time to let them know that this is a bad idea and to defer self-insurance approval at this time. Contact information for JFC members is found below. Thank you in advance for your help!

Name	Dist #	E-mail	Phone (all 608)
John Nygen Co-Chair	89th AD	Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-2343
Alberta Darling Co-Chair	8th SD	Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-5830
Dale Kooyenga, Vice Chair	14th AD	Rep.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-9180
Luther Olsen, Vice Chair	14th SD	Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-0751
Sheila Harsdorf	10th SD	Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-7745
Howard Marklein	17th SD	Sen.Marklein@legis.wi.gov	266-0703
Tom Tiffany	12th SD	Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov	266-2509
Leah Vukmir	5th SD	Sen.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-2512
Lena Taylor	4th SD	Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-5810
Jon Erpenbach	27th SD	Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-6670
Amy Loudenbeck	31st AD	Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-9967
Mary Felzkowski	35th AD	Rep.Felzkowski@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-7694
Mark Born	39th AD	Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-2540
Mike Rohrkaste	55th AD	Rep.Rohrkaste@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-5719
Gordon Hintz	54th AD	Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov	266-2254
Katrina Shankland	71st AD	Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov	267-9649

POWRS is an activist group of volunteers who work to protect the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and seek retirement security for all. Follow us on Facebook at "POWRS".