

OPEN LETTER TO WISCONSIN GROUP INSURANCE BOARD REGARDING POTENTIAL SELF-INSURANCE PLAN

Prepared by POWRS (Protect our Wisconsin Retirement Security)

January 30, 2017

Dear Board Members:

As our letter of December 6, 2016, stated, POWRS has been following closely the discussions related to the issue of self-health insurance for Wisconsin state employees. As we had concluded, the impending repeal of the Affordable Care Act has indeed brought alarming risks in regard to changing insurance plans at this time.

President Trump's Executive Order regarding ACA repeal has already thrown the entire health insurance marketplace into unknown territory. There is no way to predict what Congress will enact in its place. Moreover, much of the zeal for insurance change in Wisconsin was based on the potential to save \$18 million annually from related ACA payments. That is obviously no longer on the table.

We remind you that 14 Wisconsin health provider organizations made their concerns very clear in their November 14, 2016, letter when they said: *"The potential repercussions for the state, for taxpayers, for state employees, for Wisconsin health care organizations, and for the Wisconsin economy are significant and could be far-reaching."*

POWRS continues to believe that any changes to the Wisconsin Group Health Insurance System are unwise and unjustified at this time. It seems far more prudent to keep the current HMO-based system in effect . . . a system that has an astonishingly low average rate increase of 1.6% for 2017.

Sincerely,

POWRS

POWRS Steering Committee: Philip Anderson, William Franks, Kay Johnson, Joyce Luedke, Kathleen Marsh, Patrick Murphy, Roger Springman

POWRS is a statewide group of activist volunteers who protect the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) and seek retirement security for all. Follow POWRS on FaceBook at "POWRS".