



ALLIANCE OF HEALTH INSURERS, U.A.
10 East Doty Street, Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
608-258-9506

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Wisconsin
Children's Community Health Plan
Delta Dental of Wisconsin, Inc.
MHS Health Wisconsin.
Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin
UnitedHealthcare of Wisconsin
WPS Health Insurance

To: Wisconsin Legislature
From: Alliance of Health Insurers
Subject: **Joint Finance Committee Review and Approval of Medical Assistance
Provider Payment Changes (AB 1072)**
Date: December 3, 2018

The Alliance of Health Insurers (AHI) is a nonprofit state advocacy organization created in 2012 to preserve and improve upon consumer access to affordable health insurance in Wisconsin, both via the private sector and public programs, as well as to promote consumer choice, reduce costs, foster innovation, and protect consumers. Our members cover approximately 490,400 lives in Wisconsin's Medical Assistance program (roughly 67 percent of the BadgerCare and SSI program participants).

Assembly Bill (AB) 1072 requires Joint Committee on Finance prior approval of rate reimbursement changes (unless explicit expenditure authority is included in enacted legislation) to the state's Medicaid plan.

Currently, the Legislature sets and approves the overall biennial budget authority within which the Department of Health Services (DHS) sets Medicaid rates, which must be actuarially sound, by acting within its general rate making and expenditure authority. Health plans, healthcare providers, and other interested stakeholders, such as patient advocates, help DHS identify coverage and plan design issues to consider as rates are set. The Legislature's continued role, once the overall budget is set, is to address issues beyond this general authority to help solve new problems as they arise, such as access to dental care and dental reimbursement rates.

AHI's members are very concerned this requirement potentially would turn what has been a well working, well understood process to set rates into a more parochial, potentially political process whereby the Joint Committee on Finance could pick winners and losers among Medicaid plans when rates need to be adjusted or changed.

AHI respectfully requests this provision be removed.