

**Halbur, Jennifer**

---

**To:** Cassandra Quick  
**Subject:** End of Session Update: Senate Bill 72

April 8, 2004

Dear Cassandra,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. The Committee passed SB 72 on September 15, 2004, with a 5-4 vote. No further action was taken.

I have included a link to the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature: [www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB72hst.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB72hst.html)

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

Carol Roessler

**Quick, Cassandra**  
1626 Bowen St  
Oshkosh, WI 54901-3044

Email: curlieeq\_2000@yahoo.com

**Contact Date:** 10/29/2003

**Contact Type:**

**Summary:** mental health benefits

**Issue:**

**Position:**

**Description:** -----Original Message-----

From: Cassandra Quick [mailto:curlieeq\_2000@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2003 5:23 PM  
To: The Honorable Carol A. Roessler  
Subject: mental health parity legislation

Cassandra Quick  
1626 Bowen St  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

October 28, 2003

The Honorable Carol A. Roessler  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Senator Roessler:

Dear Representative Underheim and Senator Roessler :

I am writing as a future psychologist and constituent to urge you to support mental health parity. Passage of a bill supporting full mental health parity would greatly aid in ending the use of one-size-fits-all limits on mental health benefits that are different from limits on other medical and surgical benefits. This legislation can make a real difference for patients who now face higher coinsurance and arbitrary limits on days of care that can help them with their mental health disorder.

It is important that full mental health parity be passed so that insurance coverage applies to all mental disorders for which treatment is medically necessary, just as the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program does. This legislation is long overdue and has had much support in the House and Senate over the past several years, but continues to be a cause that needs your support.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Quick

**File:** S:\DOCS\Jennifer\10-31-03 sb 72 mental cassandra e mail sent.doc

**Status:** Done

**Closed Date:** 10/31/2003

## Contact Detail

**Assigned:** Halbur, Jennifer**Owner:** Halbur, Jennifer**Note**    **Note Date:** 10/31/2003**Summary:** JH e-mailed Cassandra**Contact Type:****Description:** October 31, 2003

Dear Cassandra,

Thank you for your contact relating to Mental Health Parity.

I share your concerns relating to mental health insurance coverage. As you know, the current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services. The coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992.

In March of this year, the Joint Legislative Council Special Committee on Mental Health Parity issued recommendations on this issue. As a result, the Joint Legislative Council introduced Senate Bill 72. This bill increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I have attached the Legislative Reference Bureau analysis of the bill below.

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care, which I chair, 5-4. The bill is now available to be scheduled for a debate before the full Senate.

Thank you again for sharing your views on these issues. I will keep you updated on the progress of Senate Bill 72.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18th Senate District

LRB-1979/1

PJK:kmg:jf

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTE provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the joint legislative council's special committee on mental health parity.

Under current law, a group health insurance policy (called a "disability insurance policy" in the statutes) that provides coverage of any inpatient hospital services must cover those services for the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems in the minimum amount of the lesser of: 1) the expenses of 30 days of inpatient services; or 2) \$7,000 minus the applicable cost sharing under the policy or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$6,300 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. If a group health insurance policy provides coverage of any outpatient hospital services, it must cover those services for the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems in the minimum amount of \$2,000 minus the applicable cost sharing under the policy or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$1,800 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. If a group health insurance policy provides coverage of any inpatient or outpatient hospital services, it must cover the cost of transitional treatment arrangements (services,

## Contact Detail

specified by rule by the commissioner of insurance, that are provided in a less restrictive manner than inpatient services but in a more intensive manner than outpatient services) for the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems in the minimum amount of \$3,000 minus the applicable cost sharing under the policy or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$2,700 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. If a group health insurance policy provides coverage for both inpatient and outpatient hospital services, the total coverage for all types of treatment for nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems is not required to exceed \$7,000, or the equivalent benefits measured in services rendered, in a policy year.

This bill changes the minimum amount of coverage that must be provided for the treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts in current law were enacted. Inpatient services must be covered in the minimum amount of the lesser of: 1) the expenses of 30 days of inpatient services; or 2) \$16,800 minus the applicable cost sharing or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$15,100 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. Outpatient services must be covered in the minimum amount of \$3,100 minus the applicable cost sharing or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$2,800 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. Transitional treatment arrangements must be covered in the minimum amount of \$4,600 minus the applicable cost sharing or, if there is no cost sharing under the policy, \$4,100 in equivalent benefits measured in services rendered. The total coverage for all types of treatment for nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems is not required to exceed \$16,800, or the equivalent benefits measured in services rendered, in a policy year.

The table below provides information on treatment category, current minimum coverage amount, year of enactment and the proposed coverage amounts based on the increase in the federal cost-of-living for medical coverage "indexed" since the enactment of the coverage amounts.

The bill also requires the department of health and family services to annually report to the governor and legislature on the change in coverage limits necessary to conform with the change in the federal consumer price index for medical costs. The bill also contains a delayed initial applicability provision which states the new coverage amounts will first apply to policies issued, renewed, or modified on the first day of the 13th month beginning after the bill becomes law.

**Note**     **Note Date:** 04/08/2004

**Summary:** JH sent end of session update

**Contact Type:**

**Description:** April 8, 2004

**File:** S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment health ins cov e mail.doc  
Dear Cassandra,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. The Committee passed SB 72 on September 15, 2004, with a 5-4 vote. No further action was taken.

I have included a link to the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature: [www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB72hst.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB72hst.html)

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

Carol Roessler

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

April 8, 2004

Barth Leatherman  
4080 Windermere Lane  
Oshkosh, WI 54902-7343

Dear Barth,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. No further action was taken.

I have included the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment. health ins cov. update.doc



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

September 22, 2003

Barth Leatherman  
4080 Windermere Lane  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Dear Barth,

Thank you for your recent contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

I do support Senate Bill 72 and believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is serious. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

Senate Bill 72 increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I view this as fair and not exorbitant. Coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992. The current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services.

Ensuring that individuals suffering from mental illness get the treatment they need is a positive for the economy.

- A National Institute of Mental Health sponsored study revealed that mental and addictive disorders cost \$300 billion annually: productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion, and other costs (such as criminal justice) of \$80 billion. The MIT Sloan School of Management found in 1995 that clinical depression costs American businesses \$28.8 billion a year in lost productivity and absenteeism.
- Businesses that provide insurance coverage of mental illnesses have found an unexpected benefit in reduced sick leave for physical ailments. Increased productivity and fewer sick days have resulted in a net positive for these businesses.

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003. The bill will need to be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance for review and action.

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

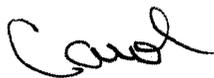
While there is no silver bullet solution to this problem, my colleagues and I are proactively exploring options to help alleviate some of the cost burden. For example, I am currently working with a work group representing businesses, hospitals, and health plans. This group will have an initiative ready in at most two months to address some of the issues surrounding health care costs. In short, we are hoping to help improve accountability and competition among service providers as well as increase consumer choice.

The introduction of Senate Bill 204 is a proactive effort to help businesses better afford quality health care. This bill authorizes a health benefit purchasing cooperative pilot project. The overriding goals are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and, most importantly, provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small employers who have little or no access to health insurance. I have included a copy of SB 204 for your review.

I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date as this bill moves through the Legislative process.

Sincerely,



CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18th Senate District

## Halbur, Jennifer

---

**From:** Seaquist, Sara  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2003 2:47 PM  
**To:** Halbur, Jennifer; Halbur, Jennifer  
**Subject:** New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

Constituent: Barth Leatherman (194580)

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer  
Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer  
Summary: SB 72

Issue:  
Position:  
Status: Pending  
Contact Type: Email  
Description:

-----Original Message-----

From: Barth Leatherman [mailto:barthl@itwblh.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2003 1:12 PM  
To: Senator Carol Roessler  
Subject: Mental Health Mandates

Dear Senator Roessler:

To: Representative J. Fitzgerald  
C. Owens  
Senator S. Fitzgerald  
C. Roessler

Just a short email to advise you that like many other small manufacturers in Wisconsin I oppose the provisions of SB 72. I understand that Carol Roessler has already stepped across the line, and hopefully she will reconsider! To the others, this mandate will increase the burden of Wisconsin employers, and citizens. Rising health care costs are hurting Wisconsin businesses and costing the state good-paying jobs. Now is not the time to pile on additional government health care insurance mandates which will lead to higher health care costs and decreased access to the health care system for Wisconsin workers.

Sincerely,

Barth Leatherman  
4080 Windermere Ln  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

April 8, 2004

Jeff Zwicky  
N5545 Lidgetop Court  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-8749

Dear Jeff,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. No further action was taken.

I have included the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol' in a cursive script.

CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 72 ment. health ins cov. update.doc



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

September 22, 2003

Mr. Jeff Zwicky  
N5545 LedgeTop Court  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-8749

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for your recent contact on Senate Bill 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders or alcoholism or other drug abuse problems.

I do support Senate Bill 72 and believe that mental health should be treated on the same level as a person's physical health. Mental illness is serious. Individuals suffering from mental illness should be afforded medical coverage that sufficiently meets their needs. The coverage requirements currently set forth in statute were intended to establish minimum coverage amounts, however, they have been viewed as maximums.

Senate Bill 72 increases the required coverage amounts on the basis of the change in the consumer price index for medical services since the coverage amounts were enacted. I view this as fair and not exorbitant. Coverage for inpatient services has not been increased since 1985 and outpatient since 1992. The current level of coverage required has not kept pace with the cost to provide mental health services.

Ensuring that individuals suffering from mental illness get the treatment they need is a positive for the economy.

- A National Institute of Mental Health sponsored study revealed that mental and addictive disorders cost \$300 billion annually: productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion, and other costs (such as criminal justice) of \$80 billion. The MIT Sloan School of Management found in 1995 that clinical depression costs American businesses \$28.8 billion a year in lost productivity and absenteeism.
- Businesses that provide insurance coverage of mental illnesses have found an unexpected benefit in reduced sick leave for physical ailments. Increased productivity and fewer sick days have resulted in a net positive for these businesses.

CR approved letter  
on 9/19/03.

Senate Bill 72 passed the Senate Health Committee 5-4 on September 4, 2003. The bill will need to be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance for review and action.

I do very much understand your concerns relating to the skyrocketing cost of health care. I recognize the severity of this issue and the negative affects it is having on businesses, small ones in particular. As you well know, the increase in health care costs is a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. An aging population, increased use of technology, insufficient Medicare reimbursement for services, duplication of services provided (hospital construction), lack of consumer choice and provider accountability, etc. are all factors contributing to the cost of health care.

While there is no silver bullet solution to this problem, my colleagues and I are proactively exploring options to help alleviate some of the cost burden. For example, I am currently working with a work group representing businesses, hospitals, and health plans. This group will have an initiative ready in at most two months to address some of the issues surrounding health care costs. In short, we are hoping to help improve accountability and competition among service providers as well as increase consumer choice.

The introduction of Senate Bill 204 is a proactive effort to help businesses better afford quality health care. This bill authorizes a health benefit purchasing cooperative pilot project. The overriding goals are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and, most importantly, provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small employers who have little or nor access to health insurance. I have included a copy of SB 204 for your review.

I encourage you to bring any suggestions forward that you feel may help to ease the burden of health care costs for small businesses.

While our views on SB 72 differ, I respect your position and will keep you up to date as this bill moves through the Legislative process.

Sincerely,



CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18th Senate District

## Halbur, Jennifer

---

**From:** Seaquist, Sara  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2003 2:38 PM  
**To:** Halbur, Jennifer; Halbur, Jennifer  
**Subject:** New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

Constituent: Mr. Jeff Zwicky (14859)  
N5545 Lidgetop Ct  
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-8749

**Owner:** Halbur, Jennifer  
**Assigned:** Halbur, Jennifer  
**Summary:** SB 72

**Issue:**  
**Position:**  
**Status:** Pending  
**Contact Type:** Email  
**Description:** -----Original Message-----  
**From:** Jeff Zwicky [mailto:jeffz@guenthersupply.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2003 1:46 PM  
**To:** Senator Carol Roessler  
**Subject:** Mental Health Mandates

Dear Senator Roessler:

Please consider opposing SB72. I feel that the mental health insurance mandates will further increase the burden on small businesses such as ours. This escalating problem of health care coverage costs has to be addressed; supporting SB72 is a step in the wrong direction!

Thanks for your concern,

Sincerely,

Jeff Zwicky  
President  
Guenther Supply Inc  
429 W 11th St  
Fond du Lac , WI 54935

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



**Carol Roessler**  
STATE SENATOR

April 7, 2004

Carolyn Kelly  
N5195 County Road K  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-8523

Dear Carolyn,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update regarding Senate Bill 71 and Senate Bill 72.

SB 71, relating to treatment of prescription drug costs, diagnostic testing, and payments under mandated insurance coverage of treatment for mental disorders, was introduced and referred to the Senate Health Committee March 13, 2003. SB 71 passed the Senate March 2, 2004 and passed the Assembly March 11, 2004. The Governor signed SB 71 April 7, 2004.

SB 72, relating to increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders, was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. No further action was taken.

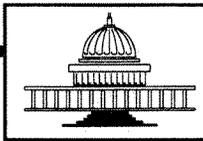
I have included the bill histories for you to review, which detail the movement of these bills through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on these issues and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 71 sb 72 mental health update.doc



## Anatomy of Two Bills- SB71 A Minor Victory, SB72 A Major Defeat

Despite the agreement of the Legislative Council Special Study Committee on Mental Health Parity on two compromise proposals (SB 71/SB 72), despite endorsement by the Joint Legislative Council Committee, despite passage recommended by Senator Roessler's Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care, **only SB 71 passed both houses of the Legislature. SB 72 never came to a vote in either the Senate or the Assembly.**

**SB 71** This bill codifies into law practices that are already in effect in the insurance industry. The bill provides that medications and diagnostic tests would not be counted against the annual cap for mental health insurance (currently \$7,000). Also, the amount counted against the cap would be **the actual amount an insurer pays**, not the amount **charged** by the provider. The bill insures that these practices will continue in the future.

SB 71 passed both houses of the Legislature (**our minor victory**) and is awaiting Governor Doyle's signature. We can thank Rep. John Lehman (D 62nd A.D. - Racine) and Rep. Dan Vrakas (R - 33rd A.D. Hartland/Waukesha), both of whom served on the Legislative Council Special Study Committee on Mental Health Parity, for working to bring this bill to a vote in the Assembly despite the efforts of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB). NFIB circulated a letter just before the Assembly vote asking legislators to vote against the bill. (See voting record)

Senator Dave Hansen (D 30th S.D. Green Bay), who served on the Legislative Council Special Study Committee on Mental Health Parity, had been instrumental earlier in bringing SB 71 to a vote in the Senate. (See voting record)

**SB 72** This bill would have increased the monetary limit that insurers are required to pay for mental illnesses and alcohol and drug abuse disorders from \$7,000 to \$16,800 per year based on the federal consumer price index for medical care costs. There has not been an increase since 1985 when these limits were set.

**SB 72 never came to a vote in either house. It was never put on their calendars for a vote. (our major defeat).**

Senator Chuck Chvala (D - 16th S.D. - Dane/Columbia Counties ) made a motion that SB 72 be removed from the Senate Committee on Organization and voted on (this is the committee that schedules bills to be debated in the Senate) . Senators Chvala, Hansen, and Robson spoke strongly in favor of the bill. The motion failed 18 15 on a straight party line vote, Republicans voting against and Democrats voting in favor of holding a vote on SB 72.

Republican Senators Harsdorf, Panzer, and Stepp, who had supported SB 72 , cast their votes against allowing SB 72 to come to a vote. Their votes would have made passage of SB 72 possible.

If SB 72 had passed the Senate and gone to the Assembly for a vote, it would probably have passed there also.

Representative John Lehman had earlier introduced AB 839 in the Assembly (identical to SB 72) because there was no movement to bring SB 72 to a vote in the Senate. He spoke in favor of AB 839 and made a motion to pull the bill out of the Health Committee for a vote in the Assembly. The motion failed on a straight party line vote, Republicans voting against and Democrats voting in favor of holding a vote on AB 839.

**This issue should not be a partisan issue. Republicans and Democrats alike are stuck down by mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders.**

Rep. John Lehman and Senator Dave Hansen worked tirelessly behind the scenes to try to bring SB 72 to a vote in the Assembly and Senate, but to no avail. Both legislators strongly supported the compromise language that came out of the Study Committee.

Unfortunately the business community has again been successful in convincing many of our legislators that the cost-of-living increase would be too expensive.

**The Commissioner of Insurance estimated that SB 72 would increase premiums by only 36 cents to \$1.24 per month per person including dependents!**

**We owe a vote of thanks to those senators and representatives who tried to bring forward a vote on SB 72 which would have helped lessen the financial burden faced by the discriminatory insurance coverage for persons with serious mental illnesses and alcohol and drug abuse disorders.**

### Voting Record:

**SB 71 Voting against: Republican Senators Cowles, Fitzgerald, Reynolds, Welch**

**Republican Representatives Fitzgerald, Grothman, Gundrum, Nass, Nischke, Suder, Towns, Vukmir, Weber**

**Democratic Representative Ziegelbauer**

**SB 72 Voting against: All Republican Senators and Representatives ☉**

**Halbur, Jennifer**

---

**From:** Seaquist, Sara  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2004 4:16 PM  
**To:** Halbur, Jennifer; Halbur, Jennifer  
**Subject:** New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

*SB 72*

Constituent: Jim Neumann (45722)  
1350 S Hickory St  
Fond Du Lac, WI 54937-5600

Home: 920-921-1550 ext.129

Email: jimneumann@rbroyal.com

Owner: Halbur, Jennifer  
Assigned: Halbur, Jennifer  
Summary: SB 72 response

Issue:  
Position:  
Status: Pending  
Contact Type: Email  
Description: Thanks Carol! Happy Easter.

Jim Neumann  
RB Royal Industries, Inc.  
(920) 921-1550 ext. 4426  
www.rbroyal.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Roessler, Carol [mailto:Carol.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us]  
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2004 11:48 AM  
To: 'jimneumann@rbroyal.com'  
Subject: SB 72 End of Session Update

April 8, 2004

Dear Jim,

Now that the 2003-2004 legislative session is over I am providing you with an update on Senate Bill 72, relating to: increasing the limits for insurance coverage of nervous or mental health disorders

SB 72 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Health March 13, 2003. A public hearing was held July 22, 2003. The Committee passed SB 72 on September 15, 2004, with a 5-4 vote. No further action was taken.

I have included the bill history for you to review, which details the movement of this bill through the Legislature. This information is also available on the Wisconsin Legislature online database named Folio, accessible by visiting <http://folio.legis.state.wi.us>

Thank you for contacting me on this issue and I look forward to hearing your comments, questions, or concerns in the future.

Sincerely,

Carol Roessler

**Kelly, Carolyn**  
 N5195 County Road K  
 Fond Du Lac, WI 54935-8523

Home: (920) 322-0314

**Contact Date:** 08/30/2002

**Contact Type:** Phone Call

**Summary:** Mental health denial on BadgerCare

**Issue:**

**Position:**

**Description:** Carolyn is on BadgerCare. She went to the hospital a few weeks ago due to severe mental issues. They were not going to admit her because of insurance issues. Because of a sarcastic comment about jumping off a bridge, she was admitted on an outpatient basis. She just received notice that her claims are being denied.

She wants to the legality behind this. Can insurance companies be sued for not covering needed services?

SJ told her that parity legislation has not been passed yet in WI, so yes, insurance companies can legally not cover the full cost of mental health treatment. SJ told her that CR is in full support and an advocate of mental health parity.

SJ told Carolyn that she would look into her specific situation of why her treatment wasn't covered on BadgerCare, but SJ couldn't promise that the situation would be resolved.

**Status:** Done

**Closed Date:** 09/19/2002

**Assigned:** Jermstad, Sara

**Owner:** Jermstad, Sara

**Note** **Note Date:** 08/30/2002

**Summary:** Joan Sanzen - DHFS will call Carolyn directly

**Contact Type:** Phone Call

**Description:**

**Note** **Note Date:** 09/04/2002

**Summary:** Update from Joan

**Contact Type:** Phone Call

**Description:** Options given to Carolyn: 1. Nurse network through the HMO and 2. Medical College of WI

She did do the right thing by going to the hospital and making a threatening comment.

She can call Joan anytime.

**Note** **Note Date:** 09/12/2002

**Summary:** Carolyn called to follow up

**Contact Type:** Phone Call

**Description:** Carolyn called to say thank you for SJ bringing her situation to the attention of DHFS - they are appalled, her doctors are appalled, but of course the HMO is not.

While she does not have the strength to fight right now, she does not wish to sit quite and have other people take their own lives simply because they do not meet the insurance companies criteria. She wants to be active somehow.

Contact Detail

---

SJ said she would talk to CR for suggestions. SJ did suggest testifying at committee hearings on the mental health parity bill next session. Carolyn said absolutley.

**Note**      **Note Date:** 09/19/2002

**Summary:** SJ called Carolyn with CR suggestions

**Contact Type:** Phone Call

**Description:** CR suggested the following for ways Carolyn could get involved:

Pat Jaeger, Osh

HOPE community in Osh

**Note**      **Note Date:** 04/08/2004

**Summary:** JH sent end of session update

**Contact Type:**

**Description:**

**File:** S:\DOCS\Jennifer\End of 03 session update ltrs\4-8-04 sb 71 sb 72 mental health update.doc