DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

October 2, 2007

To Senator Sullivan:

This bill is in preliminary form, to provide you with ample opportunity to review it prior to introduction, and because numerous issues arose in drafting. I have interspersed statutory provisions in the bill with ****NOTES where particular issues need clarification.

Please let me know if I may provide you with further assistance concerning this draft.

Debora A. Kennedy Managing Attorney Phone: (608) 266–0137 E-mail: debora.kennedy@legis.wisconsin.gov

The Minnesota law requires a "health plan company" to provide enrollees, upon request, with information about how much the company would expect to reimburse a provider "within the network" for a specified health care service. I'm not sure what is comparable to a "health plan company" in Wisconsin. However, I have imposed the requirement on all insurers, which would include both defined network plans and indemnity insurers that pay any provider on a fee–for–service basis. I have not limited the requirement to payments to providers "within the network."

Depending on its arrangement with the providers in its network, a defined network plan, such as an HMO, might not be able to specify how much it will reimburse a provider for a service. The provider may receive a salary and not be paid by each service provided.

Do you want to specify that an insurer must provide this information at no charge?

Pamela J. Kahler Senior Legislative Attorney Phone: (608) 266–2682 E-mail: pam.kahler@legis.wisconsin.gov