



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Assembly Democrats Pull Names from Bill

Republican changes to AB 365 would weaken protections for those with pre-existing conditions

MADISON – This week, Assembly Democrats removed their names from [Assembly Bill 365](#). This proposal, originally authored by Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee), was amended on the Assembly floor by Republicans. The substitute amendment changed the intent of the legislation entirely, and would lower protections for people with pre-existing conditions in Wisconsin. Assembly Democratic Leader Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) and Representative Riemer released the following statement on these actions.

“The changes made to AB 365 took a bill which aimed to stop insurance companies from instituting lifetime and annual limits on coverage, and turned it into a vehicle promoting extreme Republican policies from Congress,” stated Rep. Hintz. **“This cynical move has the real life impact of threatening coverage for those who need it most.**

“While the Affordable Care act is still the law of the land, it is clear that Republicans will stop at nothing to weaken protections for those with pre-existing conditions. Assembly Democrats stand united in their support for the ACA and the protections it provides, therefore we have requested that our names be removed from AB 365.”

[A Legislative Council memo](#) on the GOP changes to AB 365 specifies:

If a person has had continuous coverage for the 12 months before the date of enrollment with no breaks in coverage for any period longer than 63 continuous days, a health insurance policy or governmental self-insured plan is prohibited from considering a preexisting condition for the purposes of setting premiums or cost-sharing provisions.

In other words, if you do not meet this definition of continuous coverage, insurance companies can charge more for premiums or cost-sharing provisions – co-pays, etc. [This is taken directly from the House passed GOP bill.](#)

“The substitute amendment to this bill no longer resembles the legislation I authored or the idea behind it. The changes made would weaken existing protections by allowing health insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing conditions more. Simply put, that is wrong.” said Rep. Daniel Riemer. **“Our friends and neighbors with health issues deserve the stability in coverage and premiums. This bill is a direct attack on both of those key elements of quality health care.”**

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