



October 23, 2013

Testimony of Representative Chad Weinger on AB 373

To: Chairman Petersen and the Members of the Assembly Committee on Insurance

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding a public hearing on AB 373, which allows for electronic delivery of notices and documents by insurers. I would also like to thank the members of the Assembly Committee on Insurance, for their thoughtful consideration of this bill.

In short, this is a straightforward and commonsense piece of legislation that will enable our insurers to better serve their consumers in today's technology-reliant world. This proposal allows insurers in Wisconsin to offer the choice of electronic delivery of notices or documents to their consumers. Under this proposal, this could mean delivery to an email address or through an online portal, like financial institutions offer.

This proposal is not a mandate; rather, it is another option for our insurance providers and consumers and allows the insurance industry to keep with the times. Should the consumer choose not to opt-in and receive electronic communications, nothing will change in the delivery of their documents. Insurers should be able to offer the same options for delivery of their documents as financial institutions or utility companies.

The substitute amendment allows for the option of electronic delivery for all insurers: health, property and casualty, and life. We also worked with the Office of Commissioner of Insurance to ensure that concerns the agency had in implementation were included in the amendment.

This proposal also includes a number of items that ensures consumers are protected. For example, before the consumer can begin receiving their notices or documents, they need to reasonably demonstrate they are able to receive or access these documents. This will ensure insurers have the correct email address for the consumer, or that their website is working correctly. I would also like to point out that any notices and documents delivered electronically must meet the requirements of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

I believe this proposal is a step in the right direction and gives the insurance industry and its consumers another option to send and receive notices and documents. Again, I would like to thank the Chairman and the Committee for their time and consideration of AB 373.