

Approved by the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly on April 9, 2007

Resolution in support of domestic partner benefits for all qualified State of Wisconsin Employees, including UW System

**presented by the Compensation and Economic Benefits Committee
of the Academic Staff Assembly**

WHEREAS thirteen states offer domestic partner health benefits to all state employees, as do more than 100 cities and counties nationwide, including Dane County, the City of Madison, and the City of Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS thousands of private employers nationwide offer domestic partner health benefits, including more than 60 employers doing business in Wisconsin, such as Alliant Energy, CUNA Mutual Insurance Group, Oscar Mayer, Ameritech, Northern States Power, American Express, American Family Insurance, General Motors, General Casualty Insurance Company, DaimlerChrysler, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Land's End, Harley-Davidson, and Miller Brewing Co.; and

WHEREAS more than 150 colleges and universities nationwide offer health insurance benefits to domestic partners, such as Beloit College, Cardinal Stritch University, Lawrence University, Medical College of Wisconsin, and all of the Big Ten schools except the University of Wisconsin System; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System does not currently offer equitable health insurance options for the families of all of its employees; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin-Madison has codified, in its domestic partnership policy, its commitment to the provision of spousal benefits to domestic partners of all qualified university employees; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System's ability to recruit and retain high-quality employees has been impaired because it cannot offer domestic partner health benefits; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin-Madison Academic Staff Assembly passed resolutions in 1998 (Document #207) and 2003 (Document #304a) supporting the extension of state health insurance to domestic partners, and their dependent children, of all qualified University of Wisconsin System employees;

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Madison Academic Staff Assembly supports provision of state health care insurance benefits to domestic partners, and their dependent children, for all qualified state of Wisconsin employees, including those of the University of Wisconsin System, as proposed in the 2007-2009 biennial Wisconsin state budget.