



**Wisconsin Insurance Alliance**  
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March 5, 2009

The Honorable Mark Miller  
 The Honorable Mark Pocan  
 Co-Chairs of Joint Committee on Finance  
 Wisconsin State Capitol  
 Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Miller and Representative Pocan:

I am writing to respectfully request that you and your colleagues on the Joint Finance Committee remove the automobile insurance provisions; the joint and several provisions and the jury instruction language from the state budget, Assembly Bill 75.

The Governor included these provisions in the state budget and they will have a dramatic impact on insurance rates and on the property and casualty insurance industry in Wisconsin.

As you know, the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance represents 55 property and casualty companies in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin property and casualty insurance industry is one of the strongest in the nation employing over 28,000 Wisconsinites directly and through agencies across the state.

Wisconsinites currently pay some of the lowest automobile insurance rates in the country. According to the Auto Insurance Report's PAIN index, Wisconsin families pay the third lowest rates as a percentage of household income. When combining the out-of-pocket expense for auto and homeowners insurance as a percentage of median household income for a family of four, Wisconsin residents enjoy the lowest Personal Insurance Burden (PIB) in the country.

The provisions ([attached 1](#) and [attached 2](#)) have little or nothing to do with the state budget or current economic crisis facing the citizens of the state. In fact, these provisions will increase the insurance costs of all Wisconsin families, hitting low and middle income households the hardest. These provisions deserve to be debated through the normal bill process where the full impact on Wisconsin consumers can be determined in a thoughtful manner.

On behalf of the property and casualty insurance industry in Wisconsin, I request that you remove these initiatives from the state budget and allow for an open and public debate on the impact of these policy changes on consumers and the Wisconsin insurance marketplace.

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Franken  
 President

C: Members of Joint Committee on Finance  
 Members of the Wisconsin Legislature