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Health Insurance Case Moves Forward: The United States Supreme Court Nixes American Family Appeal

Madison, WI – In an era of health reform, when the “public option” is debated for the potential of governmental red tape and obstacles, a Wisconsin mother and her young son have weathered the proven “private option” bureaucracy—an odyssey they have endured for over six years. The United States Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the decision of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of [Mondry v. American Family Insurance](#), when they denied American Family the right to re-argue the case. “American Family stymied Ms. Mondry’s rights from the start, by failing to provide essential documents that she needed to appeal a denial of speech therapy services for her son.” said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney of the non profit law firm ABC for Health Inc., litigating on behalf of Ms. Mondry.

“Whether a private or public insurance option is used, people need transparency and accountability from insurers when they appeal inappropriate denials of medical services. Ms. Mondry and ABC made over forty-one requests for basic coverage and claims information to American Family and their agents in this matter. Are families, especially those with chronic or acute medical needs expected to battle against stonewalls for their coverage for years on end? We don’t think so,” continued Peterson.

Peterson concluded, “Ms. Mondry thought she had reliable, private health insurance, with rights and protections. Sadly she was wrong. In reality, she had to devote over six years of her life, since 2003, fighting for the basic right to know why her son’s claims were denied.” The case will now return to the Western District of Wisconsin for final resolution of fines and cost against American Family.

ABC for Health is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit, public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health’s mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services. www.abcforhealth.org

