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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Interview on radio or TV:

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ABC for Health: Making Sense of National Health Reform

Madison, WI – “We’ve made good headway, but now it’s time to hammer out the details,” said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and director of ABC for Health. On December 30, ABC for Health will film an edition of its popular, online policy talk show, the HealthWatch WatchDog. In the final episode of 2009, Peterson will spotlight key differences of the House and Senate health reform bills. “We need to make sense of the divergent House and Senate bills for taxes, consumer protections, Medicaid provisions and group and individual coverage requirements.”

Peterson plans to detail items in the Senate bill that are important to health care consumers, such as elements of the manager’s amendment that strengthened key reforms. The amendment provided for stricter health insurance regulations and stronger consumer protections than the original Senate bill. These provisions include: guaranteeing patients the right to appeal coverage denials and providing limits on year-to-year premium increases. “The Senate properly included elements like the medical loss ratio, patient’s bill of rights protections, and non-profit insurance options. The House bill includes a stronger Medicaid expansion and, of course, a public option. We will maintain a watchful eye over the process these next weeks as the House and Senate negotiations progress,” continued Peterson.

Peterson wants even stronger patient advocacy services to emerge from the compromise of bills. Peterson will present more detail on this topic of national health reform in a web cast presentation from the ABC for Health Studio. The web cast will be available at 11:00am, December 30, 2009 to the media and the public at this link:
<http://76.205.39.193/mediasiteabc/Viewer/?peid=ac2716bc-b0a4-41f5-abee-e5827dea2a30>

“In my experience, a public or private option is less important than the strong enforcement of the rules and the provisions to hold the insurance industry accountable. Health reform must finally prioritize the patients over the fat cats,” concluded Peterson. “We need our elected representatives to stand and deliver for the people of Wisconsin.”

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.

