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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC for Health: Advocates' Reaction to Health Summit and WI Senate Vote

Madison, WI – “We saw a meeting of necessity. The national health reform summit was an opportunity for President Obama to speak to the American people to rally support, dispel myths, get traction, and move forward. But it was also political theatre,” said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and director of ABC for Health. On February 25, ABC for Health filmed an edition of its popular, online policy talk show, the HealthWatch WatchDog. Peterson reviewed Thursday’s healthcare summit and gave perspective to the extensive dialog on healthcare across America.

“In this past week, we once again saw continued stonewalling by those opposed to the current reform proposals. We also saw a continuation of the scare tactics and myths to keep healthcare stuck in the muck,” said Peterson. “I’m highly skeptical that enough people will see the light and move forward with a bipartisan bill. Instead, we will likely see something come through the budget reconciliation process. Speaker Pelosi has a tough job ahead of her to round up votes in the House.”

Peterson presented more detail on the future of national health reform, including implications for Wisconsin, in a web cast presentation from the ABC for Health Studio available to the media and the public at this link:

<http://96.60.62.171/mediasiteabc/Viewer/?peid=d33fce4e2ba84b62898fd87559cd304e>

Closer to home, the BadgerCare Plus Basic bill was before the Wisconsin Senate. In a 17-16 vote, the bill made it through the Senate and now heads to the Assembly. Reacting to the vote, Peterson said, “There are problems with Basic—but there are people out there who do need some coverage. Basic is a small step in the right direction, but something that some people need right now.” Peterson reacted to the loudest argument against the Basic plan—the worry that individuals with Basic will shift the cost of care to those who are insured in the private market. “If you’re concerned about cost shifting, consider the cost of all these people having no insurance, being in medical debt or being in collections.”

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.

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