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**For Immediate Release  
PRESS RELEASE**

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**Public Health Funds Need Effective Oversight**

**Madison, WI.** The Wisconsin United for Health Foundation (WUHF) Board is scheduled to meet Thursday, July 9 to review the five-year plans of Wisconsin's two Medical Schools. The WUHF Board oversees the "Blue Cross Blue Shield conversion funds" specifically entrusted to the University of Wisconsin Medical School and Medical College of Wisconsin. Through an Order by the Commissioner of Insurance, the schools are to prioritize and direct these scarce public health resources to benefit the people of Wisconsin. Despite oversight responsibility, the WUHF Board and the Insurance Commissioner lack the ability to investigate and enforce violations of the Order. ABC for Health, [www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org) a non-profit, public interest law firm in Madison, has called for the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board and the Commissioner of Insurance to investigate and enforce suspected violations of the Order.

"The lack of enforcement power for the WUHF and the Commissioner is really startling" said Bobby Peterson, a Public Interest Attorney at ABC for Health. "The oversight of the schools' activity is more like a lap dog than a watchdog function" continued Peterson. Over the past six years, ABC for Health identified a series of medical school projects and programs that appear to supplant partnership program funds from a wide variety of other sources. Sadly, none of these suspected supplanting violations were investigated.

Peterson noted, "Now, more than ever, The Wisconsin United for Health Board has a special opportunity to fulfill a leadership and effective oversight role to help improve the health status of Wisconsinites. As trustees of public funds, the medical schools must prioritize and direct that these scarce public health resources benefit people in Wisconsin."

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