



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 31, 2012

Interview: Bobby Peterson (608) 261-6939 ext. 201 (office) or (608) 444-7197 (cell)

The Real Fraud About the “Medicaid Fraud Investigations”

Madison, WI –The Legislative Audit Committee will convene a public hearing February 1, 2012 on the Audit Bureau’s Medicaid Audit Report. “While the audit raises serious concerns about the administration of Wisconsin’s Medicaid programs, it also leaves many unanswered questions about DHS operations and motives behind new anti-fraud initiatives,” says Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and director of ABC for Health. “According to the audit, documented cases of fraud resulted in 2010-2011 recoveries equal to approximately 0.005 of 1% of Medicaid spending,” continued Peterson.

Despite these findings, DHS initiated a new anti-fraud program and hired an Inspector General. “Where is the evidence of fraud!” exclaimed Peterson. He continued, “The Audit Report misses the fraud against the 1.2 million people of Wisconsin who need and use the Medicaid and BadgerCare programs as a lifeline.” Peterson also questioned the lack of attention paid to the DHS fraud contractor bidding processes and contingent fee arrangements for fraud contractors.

If You Go:

What: Legislative Audit Committee Public Hearing on the Medicaid Audit Report

When: Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 9:00am

Where: State Capitol Building Room 411 South

Peterson suggests that the real rationale behind the Department’s aggressive, new fraud investigation is to suppress Medicaid and BadgerCare enrollment, perhaps motivated by projected Medicaid budget shortfalls of \$141 million. “The DHS-sponsored witch hunt for fraud will chill enrollment. As advocates, we know that even discussion of penalties frightens people from applying for needed coverage. Families that are already very confused about coverage opportunities may defer needed coverage just to avoid the possibility of fraud allegations,” concluded Peterson.

The HealthWatch Reporter publication raises additional concerns and unanswered questions related to the Audit, available online at the following link: <http://www.safetyweb.org/healthwatchwi/reporter.html>

ABC for Health, Inc. 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.