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**PRESS RELEASE
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Study Committees Approach Health Reform, Access to Care

Madison, WI – “While the legislature isn’t in session, there’s a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work going on, especially when it comes to health care and coverage,” said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and Executive Director of ABC for Health, Inc (ABC). Legislative Council Study Committees—eighteen of them—have formed to study issues and make recommendations to the Wisconsin Legislature. Four of them are health care or public health related. “We’re paying particular attention to the ‘Access to Health Care,’ ‘Health Reform Implementation,’ and ‘Infant Mortality’ committees,” says Peterson. In fact, Peterson and ABC for Health submitted a white paper titled “Promoting Access to Health Care Through Patient Advocacy in Wisconsin” to the Access to Health Care Committee, in advance of their October 22 meeting in Milwaukee. “It was important to us that the Committee consider the multi-dimensions of ‘access to care’—that it includes more than medical infrastructure and capacity. While critical to care, access to health care *coverage* and *information* can’t be left out of the conversation,” continues Peterson. ABC for Health’s white paper and recommendations are available online:

<http://www.safetyweb.org/common/WHITE%20PAPER%20Promoting%20Access%20to%20Health%20Care%20through%20Patient%20Advocacy%20in%20Wisconsin.pdf>

ABC for Health produced a webcast on this topic available to the media and the public at this link:
<http://96.60.62.171/mediasiteabc/Viewer/?peid=eeb97c57666247d392292b8567a6e4cd>

“We encourage the public health community to take advantage of opportunities to provide public comment. The beauty of Legislative Council Committees is the extensive public membership. The diversity of perspective makes for better recommendations to the legislature. We can all get involved,” says Peterson.

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.