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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Post Election-Advocate's Response**

*What New Leadership Means for Access to Health Coverage in Wisconsin*

**Madison, WI** – “Last Tuesday’s election doesn’t change fundamental access to health care and coverage needs of people in Wisconsin,” said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and Executive Director of ABC for Health, Inc (ABC). “People will still need to be informed and educated on coverage options, people will need advocacy assistance to get, use and keep the best health coverage, and we will strive to avoid and eliminate medical debt and inappropriate cost shifting,” continued Peterson. While big changes in governance are occurring, Peterson discusses that at the ground level, where it matters to people, they still need help. “People will still need advocacy help to secure needed coverage for themselves and their families” Peterson recalled another election in 1994 that caused major policy shifts that had unintended consequences. After that election, Medicaid and AFDC we de-linked and millions of children lost health care coverage. Peterson speculated on the future health care programs in Wisconsin. “The governor-elect has talked about time limits for BadgerCare and renewed support for the health savings account idea. These ideas signal fundamental changes in health coverage for children or their parents. We have heard that everything’s on the table.”

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=ab2aef09217647d686fe7b7a42f1b1ac>

Peterson concludes, “Overall, we’re dealing with an ideology shift. We’ll have new policy makers, new legislative leaders and agency representatives. This is a very important time for folks to make sure their voices are heard at the legislative level as well as administrative agency level.” In early March, ABC for Health will sponsor the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference. At this event, newly elected and appointed officials will discuss the future of health coverage programs in Wisconsin. Watch for information online: [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org).

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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