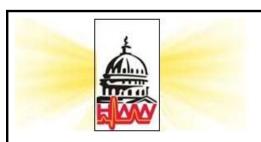
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February 11, 2011

A Call to Action: Consumer Assistance Cut!

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...in building comprehensive education and advocacy systems in Wisconsin!

Become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin! We welcome your interest in learning and sharing with other impressive members of the public health workforce in Wisconsin. Click Here for more information

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# **Consumer Assistance Project in Wisconsin Terminated**

A Call to Action for Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin, Friends and Colleagues:

ABC for Health and HealthWatch Wisconsin were dealt a significant blow yesterday, when Commissioner of Insurance Ted Nickel terminated a contract to provide services connecting Wisconsin families to health coverage and education. Commissioner Nickel and Deputy Commissioner Dan Schwartzer claimed the service and education was a "waste of taxpayer money."

# ABC for Health is challenging this decision, but your support is needed and appreciated!

Call the Commissioner of Insurance and Deputy Commissioner, and let them know how you feel about their decision: **1-800-236-8517** 

Consider calling your elected officials and let them know your thoughts on consumer assistance!

Wisconsin Legislative Hotline: 1-800-362-9472

#### Read All About It:

- Watch Our HealthWatch WatchDog Episode
- Read Our Press Release
- Read ABC for Health's Open Records Request
- Read About ABC for Health's Open Records Request
- Read the Commissioner's Termination Letter
- See Coverage of this Issue By the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

# **About the Consumer Assistance Project:**

A federal grant was established to develop or expand independent offices of health insurance consumer assistance. As a condition of receiving grant funds, recipients are required to:

- Assist consumers with filing complaints and appeals
- Assist consumers with enrollment into health care coverage
- Educate consumers on their rights and responsibilities with respect to group

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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.

health plan and health insurance coverage

 Collect data on consumer inquiries and complaints and provide these data to HHS

Since beginning the contract in December of 2010, ABC for Health assisted scores of Wisconsin families navigate complicated public and private benefits and eligibility issues. In addition, staff developed new educational materials to help inform service providers about patient's rights and responsibilities related to health care coverage programs.

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