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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Law Firm Files Open Records Request with Wisconsin's Insurance Commissioner**

**Madison, WI** – Public Interest Law Firm ABC for Health has filed an open records request with the Commissioner of Insurance's office in Wisconsin. The move responds to newly appointed Commissioner and former insurance industry insider Ted Nickel's decision to terminate a consumer assistance program that included ABC for Health. The Commissioner's office issued a statement to the media on February 11, 2011 saying that the assistance offered Wisconsin consumers to connect them to health coverage was "a waste of taxpayer money." Bobby Peterson, Public Interest Lawyer at ABC for Health, said "obviously, there's more going on than what first appearances suggest. Our office had worked closely with the staff of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), and they were actually quite excited about training and partnership opportunities."

Peterson continued, "What puzzles me is that OCI and the insurance industry should want accurate information for consumers about their public and private coverage choices, prices, and all the variables that support an efficient insurance market." Peterson continues, "The political climate is one thing, but equipping consumers, health service providers and the OCI office staff with tools to make sure the insurance market runs effectively, particularly the self funded market that OCI cannot effectively regulate, is another." ABC for Health's open records request will shed important sunshine on the conversations and notes that led to the termination decision. Peterson describes the Commissioner's move as nice payback for insurance industry pals, but believes the Commissioner never bothered to consider the punitive impact for consumers, especially those in self funded ERISA health plans.

Peterson wants politics out of the conversation, saying "This is about helping people. ABC for Health helps families and individuals from all over Wisconsin, regardless of political party or ideology. We respond to people's questions and concerns and try to provide accurate and timely answers about health care coverage options. In today's climate, people appreciate knowing there is at least one place you can go to get information and possible advocacy assistance on navigating a variety of public and private health care options."

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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