



**PRESS RELEASE
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Law Firm Files Notice of Claim for Consumer Assistance Contract Termination
Notice Reaches Personnel in Walker's Cabinet, Staff

Madison, WI – Public Interest Law Firm ABC for Health, Inc. (ABC) has filed a notice of claim against the Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance Ted Nickel. The claim arises from the termination of the Consumer Assistance Grant contract between the Commissioner of Insurance and ABC. Also mentioned in the notice filed Thursday with Attorney General JB Van Hollen, are Deputy Commissioner of Insurance Dan Schwartz, Department of Health Services Secretary Dennis Smith, Deputy Secretary Kitty Rhoades, and Gov. Walker's Deputy Chief of Staff Eric Schutt.

The claim contends that, based on information and belief, the newly appointed Commissioner Ted Nickel and his Deputy Dan Schwartz's decision to terminate a consumer assistance program that included ABC was unlawful and inequitable. Bobby Peterson, Public Interest Lawyer at ABC, said "we suspected all along that there was more going on than what first appearances suggested. Our office had worked closely with the former Commissioner and his staff on the program contract to avoid duplication in services and focus consumer assistance on identified consumer needs. The records retrieved pursuant to our open records request shined some telling light on the communications and the involvement of the Governor's Office."

Peterson continues, "This political decision from Scott Walker was obviously guided by Commissioner Nickel and Deputy Schwartz and Eric Schutt of Walker's staff, all insurance industry insiders." To read the notice of claim, learn more about the consumer assistance program, and to see documents and records retrieved, visit:

<http://www.safetyweb.org/projectsConsumerAssistance.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.

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