

WARNING

October 19, 2009 Important Update

Your Access to Nutritional Services and Information is **STILL at Risk!**

The Dietitians have moved their attack to the Wis. Assembly. **You must act NOW!**

The Problem:

The Wisconsin Dietitians have now introduced their bill to the Wisconsin Health and Healthcare Reform Committee. This bill still creates monopolistic control over all nutritional healthcare. The bill is WI AB 440. This bill is dangerously restrictive and will jeopardize your access to a wide variety of nutritional healthcare practitioners. This bill will destroy the practices of nutritionists, naturopaths, Nutritional Doctors and others who are not dietitians licensed by the state. **Health food stores** would only be allowed to give **“general nutritional information”**. For others: **One must be a dietitian or medical practitioner to be able to recommend any nutritional care therapy.**

Quotes from the bill:

This bill directs the board to license persons as “dietitians / nutritionists.” With certain exceptions, **the bill prohibits a person who is not licensed from practicing dietetics or nutrition care services.** This bill changes the title of a person licensed by the board from “dietitian” to “dietitian or nutritionist,” and changes the title of the board to the Dietetics and Nutrition Care Services Affiliated Credentialing Board. In the bill, a dietitian or nutritionist is a person who practices dietetics and nutrition care services.” In the bill, the practice of dietetics **and nutrition care services includes assessing nutritional needs and dietetic and nutrition therapy.”**

What happened at the Senate Hearing on September 17, 2009.

The Wisconsin Senate Public Health committee heard 6 hours of testimony regarding this bill. This bill was overwhelmingly opposed by those who testified. In the testimony, it became clear that the dietitians were overreaching and that their main concern was for insurance and Medicare reimbursement and that safety and public health were not their concern. The author of the bill Rep. Sandy Pasch introduced the bill into the Health and Health Care Committee in the Wisconsin Assembly one week later on Sept 23. Despite claims from the dietitians and bill authors that they wished to create a compromise bill, there was no attempt to fix the problems with the bill. They simply changed the focus of their efforts to get this bill passed at all costs.

The testimony from the hearing was extremely compelling and revealing. Fortunately the hearing was recorded and you can view the testimony online at www.wiseye.org. Search Video Archives, then select Senate Committees. Scroll down to 09.17.09. To see how this bill will affect you watch section 59:30 to 1:45:00. I urge you to view this hearing.

The Solution:

Convince the Wisconsin Assembly Health and Healthcare Reform committee that we are opposed to this bill. We must kill this bill in the committee. If the bill is not killed in the committee, we will have to fight this bill in the full Senate and Assembly.

The Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition has drafted a Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill which will protect unlicensed practitioners and allow safe alternative health practices for Wisconsin citizens. Please urge your state lawmakers to support this bill. You can view this draft at www.healthquestradioshow.com.

What You Can Do:

- **Contact your state representative.** Use phone call, email and letters.
Representative hotline: Statewide Toll-Free: 800-362-9472. Call their local or Madison offices directly.
Senate email: Rep.<Representative’s Last Name>@legis.wisconsin.gov
Senate mail: State Representative (Representative's Name), A-L, P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Senate mail: State Representative (Representative's Name), M-Z, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
- **Also contact the members of the Wisconsin Assembly Health and Healthcare Reform Committee.** This bill must first pass this committee prior to being voted on in the whole assembly. The best thing is to kill this bill in committee. Assembly committee members: Jon Richards (chair), Kelda Helen Roys (vice-chair), Chuck Benedict, Jennifer Shilling, Amy Sue Vruwink, Donna Seidel, Sandy Pasch (co-author), Penny Bernard Schaber, Leah Vukmir, Kitty Rhoades, Jeff Stone, Patricia Strachota, and John Nygren.
- **Sign and/or circulate a petition. Circulate this Flyer.** Flyer and Petition can be downloaded from www.healthquestradioshow.com. Look under “Articles”. Send originals to Chairman Richards. Send copies to your representative and if possible to the Wis. Health Freedom Coalition.
- **Notify your friends and family in Wisconsin** and ask them contact their state representative and oppose this bill.
- **If you can, go to Madison** when the hearings are to be held. Hearing has not yet been scheduled as of October 14, 2009.
- **Donate to the Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition.** It costs \$1000 per month for the lobbying efforts in Madison. See address below.

Resources

Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition – PO Box 53, Sheldon, WI 54766 – (954)-905-9058. website: www.wihfc.com
Health Quest Radio Show – www.healthquestradioshow.com. Here you will find a copy of the bill, a petition, an opposition letter, Representative contact list and various other resources. You can listen to interviews with Nutritionist Karen Hurd and National Health Freedom Coalition lawyer Diane Miller. Search for **WI AB 440**.