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For Immediate Release:
December 1, 2009

**Integrative Healthcare Specifically Included in the Senate Healthcare Bill's
Statutory Language!**

The senate healthcare bill now requires that the Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) board include at least one integrative healthcare practitioner along with healthcare consumers, physicians, private payers, and pharmaceutical and diagnostic manufacturers. It also includes, as appropriate, experts in integrative health and primary prevention strategies on the CER advisory panel. This marks the first inclusion of integrative medicine in any federally designed program.

“ANH-USA has been working to ensure that any government system created to fund and evaluate medical treatments will at the very least provide an even playing field for natural and integrative medicine”, said Gretchen DuBeau, Executive Director of the Alliance for Natural Health USA.

The American Association for Health Freedom (soon to be the Alliance for Natural Health-USA after completion of a merger with the Alliance for Natural Health, based in the UK) has worked for months to gain recognition for integrated healthcare in President Obama’s Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) plan (part of the stimulus bill) and in multiple iterations of healthcare reform legislation. ANH-USA has been assisted by many friends on the Hill ranging from Senator Harkin, a Democrat, to Congressman Ron Paul, a Republican. In particular, ANH-USA expressed gratitude to Senators Mikulski and Conrad. Both worked with other senators to modify the current senate healthcare bill to include representation for the integrative medicine community.

“These are powerful first steps”, said DuBeau. “With so much wrong with the Senate bill, we should take a moment to appreciate this critical step forward.”

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

About the Alliance for Natural Health USA:

The American Association for Health Freedom (AAHF), currently in the process of merging with the Alliance for Natural Health (ANH), is part of an international

organization dedicated to promoting sustainable healthcare and freedom of choice in healthcare through good science and good law. We protect the right of natural-health practitioners to practice and the right of consumers to choose the healthcare options they prefer. Since 1992, we have worked to shift the medical paradigm from an exclusive focus on surgery, drugs and other conventional techniques to an “integrative” approach incorporating food, dietary supplements and lifestyle changes. This is the way to improve health and extend lives while reducing the costs of healthcare back to a sustainable level.

We lobby Congress and state legislatures, act as a government watchdog, file comments on proposed rulings, and educate the public, press and other decision-makers. More information is available at www.anh-usa.org.