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Junk Food Industry-Supported Bill Seeks Nutrition Monopoly in Wisconsin

*Wisconsin legislature to possibly consider a bill that would
end residents' access to highly qualified nutritionists*

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Aug 30, 2011 — Wisconsin State Representative Erik Severson (R-Osceola) is poised to introduce a special-interest-drafted bill that would severely limit Wisconsin residents' choice in nutrition services, while adding needless government regulation and cost to essential healthcare services in Wisconsin.

“We have seen it time and again: the American Dietetic Association (ADA) writes these bills, then has unwitting representatives introduce them around the country. It is nothing but a veiled attempt to monopolize nutrition services,” said Gretchen DuBeau, executive and legal director of the Alliance for Natural Health USA. “Our members in Wisconsin—nutritionists and citizens opposed to healthcare monopolies—are vehemently against this bill, which would put the health of Wisconsin residents at risk,” said DuBeau.

For several years, ANH-USA has been beating back similar attacks on healthcare choice in other states by the ADA, which receives funding from soft drink giants Coca-Cola and PepsiCo and candy makers Mars and Hershey's. Recently ANH-USA has seen an increase in ADA pressure on state legislatures to accept the ADA's credentials as the only means to satisfy a state's nutrition licensing requirements, effectively forcing already-qualified nutritionists—many with Masters and PhDs in Nutrition—to be forced out of business by the state.

“Members of the Wisconsin Legislature are being pressured by the junk food-sponsored ADA to introduce a bill that would create a monopoly on nutrition services for their own Registered Dietitians,” DuBeau continued. “This bill needlessly denies consumers access to expert advice from certified nutritionists, who are some of the most highly educated and well-respected professionals in the field of nutrition science.”

In a letter to the Wisconsin statehouse, ANH-USA wrote, “Requiring one profession, i.e. nutritionists, to complete a program from a different profession, i.e. a dietitian, in order to practice nutrition services is absurd. This ignores the vast philosophical difference between nutritionists and dietitians, which are two entirely different fields of study and practice. Nutrition care is not a one-size-fits-all approach.”

DuBeau added, “Wisconsin already repeatedly rejected the ADA’s licensing legislation when it was introduced in 1993, 2007, and 2009. The ADA is attempting once again to capture and monopolize the practice of nutritional therapy, while putting Wisconsin citizens’ health at risk. We ask State Representative Erik Severson to withdraw his support of the bill.”

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About the Alliance for Natural Health USA (ANH-USA) ▪ <http://anh-usa.org>

The Alliance for Natural Health USA is part of an international organization dedicated to promoting natural, sustainable 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 and treatment modalities they prefer, including complementary and alternative medicine. As a membership-based organization, we unite consumers, practitioners, and industry to speak with a common voice and have worked since 1992 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.