



HEALTH FREEDOM REPORTER

A Publication of National Health Freedom Coalition Spring 2006

State Health Freedom Groups: Essential and Foundational to the Movement!

State health freedom efforts in 2006 have profoundly contributed to the new growth of the health freedom movement! Twelve states have introduced legislation to protect consumer access to traditional practices. Eighteen more states are preparing for the future. These are in addition to the six states that now protect consumer access to unlicensed health care practitioners, including Oklahoma, Idaho, Minnesota, Rhode Island, California, and Louisiana, and the nearly 30 states that protect the right of medical doctors to use non-conventional or alternative healing practices.

NHFA's Legal and Public Policy Director, Diane Miller, receives information requests every day from state health freedom groups from across the country. She sees these calls as top priority because she knows how hard state leaders are working and firmly believes that we need to be able to educate our local lawmakers and representatives of the importance of maximum consumer options and the protection of health freedoms. Diane sees relationship with local lawmakers as essential and foundational in order to the branch out and educate federal and international representatives effectively

Lawmakers are increasingly influenced by political and financial forces and our personal trusting relationships are increasingly important as we identify our health freedom leaders and champions.

State lawmakers are key players in the health freedom movement because states have the responsibility to make sure their citizens are safe. Occupational and professional laws fall under their jurisdiction. One hundred years ago, many state legislatures made the practice of natural therapies and traditional healing practices a crime, requiring all persons offering to heal the sick to be licensed medical doctors. Of course this was followed by a rush to the legislatures by many professions to secure their own exclusive licensing privileges. But licensing had its own down-sides; because licensed medical professionals could be disciplined under the licensing laws and have their licenses revoked if they practiced anything but conventional medical practices. Laws making the unlicensed practice of medicine a crime, and laws making the practice of non-traditional medical practices by doctors grounds for disciplinary actions are still on the books, and have dictated what our health care

culture has become today. These laws have resulted in a loss of access to wonderful healing resources and common-sense practices, and their prohibition has sometimes caused harm and even death.

State health freedom organizations are working hard to pass criminal exemption and safe harbor laws to protect consumer access to all health care practitioners. Keeping in place avenues of recourse and truthful information to consumers, these new safe harbor laws protect the rights of natural health practitioners to practice without being arbitrarily disciplined, criminally charged, or civilly fined. Traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, herbalists, energy workers, and many more are now being protected in states that have successfully passed these new types of laws, and consumer access to these practitioners is being preserved. The new laws help expand the culture and reclaim many healing practices, returning balance back into the realm of health care options. When states change at this core level, it will open minds and hearts and cause a ripple effect, and contribute to the healing of the federal and international situations as well.

2005/2006 brought many opportunities for Diane Miller to travel and meet state leaders in their home states, traveling to Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Iowa, Utah, and Michigan to assist health freedom leaders in their efforts. In Colorado she gave keynote presentations in Colorado Springs and Fort Collins, Colorado and met with health freedom activists from Colorado Springs Health Freedom Steering Committee, Colorado Fort. Collins health freedom committee,

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States that have introduced health freedom bills in the past or are supporting bills currently moving:

STATE	CONTACT	BILLS
Arkansas	Arkansas Health Freedom Coalition (ARHFC) Phone: 479-637-4361 or 479-637-4441 Email: arhfc@lycos.com www.arhfc.org	2005 - SB 976 (Altes)
California	California Citizens for health Freedom Frank Cuny	2005 - SB583 (alternative cancer treatments)
Colorado	Colorado Citizens for Health Freedom Phone: 719-231-5715 Email: advancedtherapy@hotmail.com	2006 - HB06-1170
Florida	Florida Health Freedom Coalition & Action FHFC & FHFA Phone: 305-668-2800 www.floridahealthfreedom.org info@floridahealthfreedom.org	2004 introduced health freedom
Georgia	Complementary and Alternative Medical Assoc. CAMAction and CAMA Phone: 404-284-7592 Websites: www.CAMAction.org and www.camaweb.org Email: cama@camaweb.org	2005 - HB 680 (Smith)
Hawaii	Representative Cynthia Evans Phone: 808-586-8510 E-mail: repevans@Capitol.Hawaii.gov www.capitol.Hawaii.gov/site1/house	2003 introduced health freedom 2006 - SB2099
Idaho	Coalition for Natural Health Phone: Email:	2005 - Health Freedom law protected
Iowa	Iowa Health Freedom Coalition (IHFC) Phone: 319-269-6343 E-mail: ljhanz@yahoo.com Website: http://www.iowahealthfreedom.org	2006 - SF 291 (Hatch)
Kentucky	Representative Mary Harper http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/House/hseadd.htm	2003 introduced health freedom
Louisiana	Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition (LHFC) Phone 225/756-8400 E-mail: lhfc@lahfc.org www.lahfc.com	2005 SB 189 (Broome) PASSED 2006 - SB451
Michigan	Michigan Natural Health Coalition Phone: 989-779-0730 www.mnhc.info/mnhc_001.htm mnhcinfo@yahoo.com	2006 - HF5918
Minnesota	Minnesota Natural Health - Legal Reform Project Contact::	2005 - Protected MN 146A 2006 - HF 3213, SF 2984 Expanded practices for licensees
New Mexico	Health Freedom Act Initiative from New Mexico Complementary and Alternative Health Practitioner Website: www.nmcaamp.org , http://www.mindbodyspiritjournal.com/?cat=14	2006 - SM 20 Study bill
New York	NYNCP - New York Natural and Complementary Practices Project Newyorknaturalhealthproject.org nynhp@earthlink.net	2006 - Amended S4790
North Carolina	North Carolina health freedom federation: CHF (Citizens for Health Freedom); CHF-NC Fund; CNHP (Certified Nutritional Health Professionals); CNH (Coalition for Natural Health); SHFF (Sunshine Health Freedom Fund) E-mail: chf@nc.rr.com www.citizensforhealthcarefreedom.com Phone: 704-692-7952	2005 - HB 1303 (Luebke) 2006 - Study bill
Ohio	The Health Freedom Coalition of Ohio (HFCO) E-mail: info@ohiohealthfreedom.org www.ohiohealthfreedom.org Phone 614-306-3477	2005 - HB 117 Reidelbach 2005 - SB 98 Clancy

State Health Freedom Groups: *Continued from page 1*

and Colorado Natural Health Coalition. (See State Update).

In Dallas, Texas, Diane met with Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation officers to discuss how to mobilize the grassroots for health freedom across the United States and met with the leaders of the Texas health freedom group, called Texas Complementary and Alternative Medicine, to discuss their state efforts. The Texas group is working hard to prepare health freedom legislation for the 2007 session. (See state update).

In Louisiana Diane attended a 2005 hearing in Baton Rouge held to determine whether to license Naturopathic Physicians. At the hearing NHFA encouraged the introduction of health freedom legislation and reviewed language for it to go forward. Congratulations to Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition and all of the hard working health freedom advocates for taking health freedom language forward and passing it unanimously in June 2005. Great work Louisiana!

In June 2005 Diane testified at the capitol in Raleigh North Carolina at a hearing on HB 1303, a North Carolina health freedom bill. There is a strong grassroots movement for health freedom in North Carolina, that has been developed over a number of years by strong activists. Diane met many of these activists at the capitol and had an opportunity to work with them side by side as they kept their health freedom bill alive. The bill is now being studied by a special subcommittee to come up with agreeable language for all parties. (See state update)

In Iowa, Diane gave a keynote presentation at the 2005 Iowa Health Freedom Expo in Waterloo. The Expo included many booths for Iowa practitioners and product businesses, and the energy was high for expanding the health freedom leadership and moving the health freedom legislation in the 2006 session. Iowa Health

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Freedom Coalition is a strong grass-roots force in Iowa and has their pulse on the need for freedom on all levels; they have done a great job via many avenues on educating people about health freedom. (See state update)

The following is a brief update on state groups that have been actively working on legislative issues for health freedom:

Arkansas introduced a health freedom bill for access to unlicensed practitioners in spring 2005 SB976. A bad amendment was put on so the Arkansas Healthcare Freedom group requested that it be withdrawn from consideration. Instead the sponsor has placed it before the Interim Public Health Welfare and Labor Committee for study. ARHFC has refined the bill and will try again in 2007 for passage.

California already has a law (remember famous SB 577!) that protects consumer access to unlicensed practitioners. However, on Feb 18, 2005 it introduced a bill, SB 583 Cancer Treatment to repeal the terrible law that says that medical doctors can only treat cancer with surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy. Frank Cuny at CA Citizens for Health Freedom is leading the efforts.

Colorado has a strong health freedom movement to protect access to unlicensed natural health care practitioners. HB06-1170 was introduced January 20, 2006, and successfully moved through the House of Representatives. It passed the health committee with a good majority, passed the House appropriations committee, and finally passed the full House in April 2006. However it did not pass the Senate, and health freedom advocates are in communication to prepare for 2007 session. 2005/2006 leadership was provided by Coalition for Natural Health, Colorado Coalition for Natural Health and supported by the Colorado Springs Health Freedom Steering Committee, Sunshine Health Freedom Pathfinders, and NHFA. Groups are collaborating to build a strong health freedom

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STATE	CONTACT	BILLS
Oklahoma	Health Freedom Action Network! http://www.oklahomahealthfreedom.org E-mail: em-mail@cox.net Phone: 405-751-9086	Historically Health Freedom State
South Carolina	South Carolina Health Freedom Coalition Phone: 843-756-8965 FAX: 843-756-8977.	2006 – Freedom amendment on Dietitian bill
Texas	TFHSC (Texas Health Freedom Steering Committee): TCAM -Texas Complementary and Alternative Medical Association ; CNHP – Certified Nutritional Healthcare Professionals; and SHFF- Sunshine Health Freedom Fund Contact: gretchenbfrp@yahoo.com , texascam@earthlink.net www.tcam.org	Opposing dietitian bills
Utah	Utah Group Contact: Gene Harkin Email: dr.gene.harkins@gmail.com	2006 – HB136
Virginia	Virginia Chapter of the CNHP Certified Natural Health Professionals Email: theherbbasket@erols.com Phone: 804-862-2771	2006 – SB422
Washington	Contact Info from NHFA upon request	2004 introduced health freedom
Ohio	The Health Freedom Coalition of Ohio (HFCO) E-mail: info@ohiohealthfreedom.org www.ohiohealthfreedom.org Phone 614-306-3477	2005 - HB 117 Reidelbach 2005 - SB 98 Clancy

Below are the State Organizations in a variety of developmental stages of health freedom work from beginning to develop effective teams, to research and drafting language, to mobilizing the grass roots, setting priorities, to hiring lobbyist and gaining sponsorship.

STATE	CONTACT	BILLS
Connecticut	Connecticut Health Freedom Movement Contact: Craig Repasz, 18 Nutmeg hill Rd., Hamden CT 06514@hotmail.com	New Group Forming
Illinois	Contact NHFA for info	New Group forming
Indiana	Healthkeepers Alliance 3 Church Circle #100 Annapolis, MD21401 1.888.965.5005 FAX 1.574.268.2120 information@healthkeepersalliance.org www.healthkeepers.net	Health Freedom Expos 2006 Chicago, IL, June 9-11 2006 Austin, TX, December 1-3 2006 Richmond, VA, September 22-24
Kansas	Kansans for Health Freedom 866-899-7905 herbsforhealth@4state.com and herbalsurvival@cox.net	Expanding Group
Massachusetts	Health Freedom Action Massachusetts, Inc (HFAM) www.healthfreedommassachusetts.org Email: freedom@healthfreedommassachusetts.org 617-524-2223	Active Group
Nevada	Nevada health freedom advocates Contact info from NHFA upon request	New Group forming
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Citizens for Health Freedom Phone: 603-355-2202 e-mail: gbedding@verizon.net www.nhhealthfreedom.org	Active Group
Pennsylvania	Contact NHFA for information	New Group Forming
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition Email: info@wihfc.com website:www.wifhc.com	Active Group

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as the NP licensing bill introduced in 2005 and watched for changes being suggested to the health freedom law passed in 2000. In addition they drafted and introduced HF 3213, sponsored by Rep. Ray Vandever, and SF 2984, sponsored by Senator Michelle Bachman, to protect the right of licensed medical professional to practice complementary and alternative health care. There is great interest in moving this bill in the 2007 session.

New Mexico has launched a New Mexico Health Freedom Act Initiative and has incorporated their new organization "New Mexico Complementary and Alternative Medicine Practitioners" and hired a lobbyist. They will be monitoring legislation that impacts health freedom and preparing to introduce a health freedom bill. In addition, the New Mexico legislature has a bill, MS 20, in spring of 2006, which was a study bill to study complementary and alternative health care including reviewing regulatory options

New York Health Freedom and **NYNCCP** have been supporting S4790 that will protect access to unlicensed practitioners. The bill was introduced in 2005 and New Yorkers are asking grassroots activists to come forward to help move the bill and gain financial support to support a lobbyist. NHFA provided comments to New York health freedom groups on the amendments made to the bill in spring of 2006. Hopefully all groups will collaborate in 2006/2007 to move the health freedom bill forward. In addition New Yorkers are working to oppose Naturopathic Licensing bills A5208 and S1617 because they have not been amended to protect consumer access to all natural health care practitioners.

North Carolina health freedom movement includes North Carolina steering committee members, Certified Natural Health Practitioners (CNHP) members, NHFA, Coalition for Natural Health (CNH), and

Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation (SHFF) Pathfinder leaders in their efforts to defeat an NP licensing bill and to pass a health freedom bill. HB1303, the health freedom bill, is now traveling through the legislature as a study bill. North Carolina made history when they called for outreach meetings across the state to hear public comments on complementary and alternative health care. The April 25, 2006 meeting was well attended and numerous citizens testified in support. NHFA Diane Miller testified on behalf of the health freedom bill before the NC legislature in 2005.

Ohio has introduced SB 98, a health freedom bill to protect consumer access to unlicensed practitioners. Their bill has had numerous hearings in 2005 and 2006 and Ohio leaders continue to work hard to educate legislators about the importance of protecting consumer options in health care.

South Carolina needed to act swiftly in April 2006 when they learned that a bad Dietitian bill had passed the Senate and was on its way to a hearing in the House. A group of citizens who had already worked under an educational non-profit organization to educate the public about the importance of natural health worked to find leaders and incorporate a health freedom lobbying organization in early May 2006. The SC health freedom lobbying organization negotiated with the Dietitians and amendments were added that prevented any new Dietitian Board from taking action against persons who call themselves nutritionists or who do nutritional counseling for health. There are leaders in SC that may plan to consider health freedom legislation in the future.

Texas Health Freedom worked hard in the 2005 session to defeat four bad bills regarding dietitians and nutritionists. The strong Texas grassroots were able to successfully mobilize to stop the bills. Now they are actively planning and designing a health freedom bill with hopes of introducing it in the 2007 session.

Regular conference calls are being held and Texas leaders are working to craft a good health freedom solution for Texas.

Utah: Utah activists have developed a health freedom steering committee to move health freedom bill HB 136. Representative Daw of Utah is sponsoring the bill. The bill was tabled in spring 2006 so that all interested parties can provide language feedback to Representative Daw and come to a consensus bill for next session. There is a possibility that the bill may be heard before next session.

Virginia introduced SB 422, a health freedom bill to protect consumer access to unlicensed practitioners. The bill had good revisions and discussion and was tabled at the hearing for further discussions during the interim. Additional hearing will be held in 2006 summer and fall and a vote will be taken on the bill by December 2006.

Washington has a new health freedom group forming in 2006. Washington introduced a health freedom bill to protect consumer access to unlicensed practitioners in 2004 but no action was taken. The new group forming is considering going forward again.

NHFC's International Health Freedom Work!

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Diane Miller addressed the International College of Integrative Medicine at their annual meeting in Grand Rapids Michigan. The presentation was on Codex Alimentarius. Diane met with medical doctors and professionals from all over the country who are committed in every way to bringing the best of medicine to the people. Many of them are practicing and doing remarkable research in cutting edge modalities and technology. In addition, many of them understand the legal issues surrounding the oppression of complementary and alternative medicine and were very receptive to Diane's presentation and explanation of the Codex issues.

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