

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Health Freedom is coming to North Carolina!

The freedom to practice natural and alternative therapies legally will be coming to North Carolina if the legislature votes in favor of HB 842. Introduced into the House March 26, 2009, HB 842 is known as The Consumer Health Freedom Act. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the House Health Committee on Thursday, April 30, beginning at Noon, in room 544 in the Legislative Office Building (corner of Lane St. & Salisbury St.)

The Consumer Health Freedom Act gives North Carolinians broad access to alternative treatments. It allows alternative health care practitioners to practice legally and safely in this state without the threat of being criminalized. Natural and alternative treatments are not yet widely available and practitioners cannot offer a professional level of services. Why? Because under current laws they would risk being criminally charged with “practicing medicine without a license.” If the legislature votes in favor, services and specialties like homeopathy, naturopathy, herbal and nutritional therapies, and many other alternative treatments will become common place because professionals will be able to advertise and practice freely.

Eight states – Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Rhode Island – already have similar laws, and at least twenty-two other states have introduced health freedom legislation. Medical societies have opposed health freedom laws in the past, however in New Mexico, where the most recent health freedom act was passed, the medical board was in support of it. Advocates claim that health freedom will substantially reduce health care costs.

Health freedom was voted among America’s top ten most popular action items during a 2009 public input drive by the website www.change.org, and on his transition website, President-elect Obama included, “ensure(s) patient choice of doctor and care without government interference” as one of the cornerstones of his health care reform proposal. (http://change.gov/agenda/health_care_agenda/).

For more information, please call your local representative, or you can visit www.NCHealthFreedomNow.com and www.ncchf.org, the website for Citizens for Healthcare Freedom, a North Carolina-based non-profit organization.

HEALTH FREEDOM NOW is a campaign of the North Carolina-based non-profit group Citizens for Healthcare Freedom, a 501(c) 3 organization.