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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Public Health, Senior Issues,
Long-Term Care, and Job Creation (SC-PHSILTCJC)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



KATHLEEN VINEHOUT
STATE SENATOR

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior
Issues, Long-Term Care and Job Creation
Senate Bill 115
September 17, 2009**

Good Morning Chairperson Carpenter and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 115, the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure bill.

This bill provides consumers with important assurances about the education and training of those who provide nutrition care services and gives consumers confidence in the choices they make when seeking nutritional advice.

The bill will create the title of **Dietitian Nutritionist**. These individuals will be licensed to provide dietetics and nutrition care services which includes nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services for the purpose of managing disease.

Additionally, SB 115 will increase help access to advanced nutrition care as insurance companies often require a provider to be licensed before they will cover the service.

Dietitians are a critical partner in a patient's health care team. Physicians often recommend their patients consult with a Dietitian as part of the treatment plan. Physicians and consumers need to know these providers have the appropriate education and training to treat specific chronic diseases.

Recently I received a letter describing dietitian education program from a constituent of mine, Carol Seaborn, Professor in the Dept. of Food and Nutrition at UW-Stout. Carol has been teaching future dietitians for 17 years.

Carol wrote: *“We train students who wish to become registered dietitians in a rigorous science based program equivalent to the rigor of pre-med or nursing. Upon graduation, these students complete a 9 to 12 month internships of supervised training that include medical nutrition therapy...and must pass a registration exam.”*

Licensure will ensure that all Wisconsin Dietitians have met that high standard of education and training.

Today, the committee considers a substitute amendment to SB 115.

Since introduction of the bill, Rep. Pasch and I have been working with Legislative Council staff and concerned groups to modify the bill in an attempt to address issues identified by alternative practitioners.

An important provision of the substitute amendment is removing restrictions on use of the title “Nutritionist”. This was a significant issue for many alternative providers and I am pleased we could develop language that allows them to continue using this title.

Among the materials you received about this proposal is a memo from Legislative Council attorney Dick Sweet confirming that anyone can use the title of “Nutritionist”.

We were also able to develop compromise language in the substitute amendment which will allow alternative practitioners to continue to provide nutritional information to their clients.

The substitute amendment language states that alternative practitioners can provide people guidance on healthy lifestyles, healthy eating, general nutrition or the use of herbs, vitamins, minerals, amino acids carbohydrates, sugars, enzymes, food concentrates, foods and food or dietary supplements.

However, the amendment does require an alternative practitioner to provide written disclosure to their clients stating they are not licensed by the state or authorized to provide a medical diagnosis or recommendations.

The amendment will not prevent licensed or certified healthcare professionals from practicing within their scope of practice. It also will not

impact businesses or individuals that sell and or market food products or dietary supplements.

You will note also the substitute amendment exempts the following individuals from licensing by the Dietetics and Nutrition Care Services Affiliated Credentialing Board:

- Nurses, chiropractors, dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, physical therapists, podiatrists, athletic trainers, occupational therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, and acupuncturists who provide general nutrition information– as long as they practicing within the scope of their professional license or certificate.
- A dietitian or nutritionist serving in the U.S. armed forces.
- A retailer that provides general nutrition information about food and dietary supplements in connection with the marketing and sale of those products.
- An individual, who furnishes information to clients regarding lifestyle, or who markets, distributes, sells, or furnishes general nutrition information as to the use of herbs, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, carbohydrates, sugars, enzymes, food concentrates, foods, or food or dietary supplements.

This bill, as amended, has strong support from the medical community and organizations such as the Association of Diabetes Educators, the American Heart Association, the Wisconsin Public Health Association and Local Health Departments and Board, the School Nutrition Association and Wisconsin WIC Association.

I thank the committee for your attention to this important legislation and urge your support of SB 115.



Notes for testimony at the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation to SB115

Joe Plasterer
jplasterer@gmail.com
608-286-8567

September 17, 2009

Mr. Chairman and honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Joe Plasterer and I am a private citizen, husband and father of three children. Although I'm wearing a suit, I'm not the paid representative of any organization involved in this discussion.

My interest in this topic stems from the fact that my oldest child was very ill. He had severe digestive issues, dark circles under his eyes, he was very skinny and often disconnected, and had other symptoms too many to go into here. We were told to save for his institutionalization and not expect too much from him, but be loving and supporting.

And then we changed his diet. We pursued a course not identified nor advocated by any local medical nor dietary professional. We didn't even meet with dietary professionals because the medical professionals didn't connect the issues. We only connected the issues after we began to get to know parents and did our own research.

My son is now a freshman in high school. He is big, strong, funny and intelligent. He will soon be testing for his black belt. He gets good grades, works hard, composes music and bounds up and down the trails at Devils Lake. He is all of these things and more because of the dogged pursuit of healing by my wife and through her research leading to changes in our family's diet with food sourced directly from WI-based farms.

So now to my objections to the bill. It is my opinion that this bill...

- Could be used to limit the freedom of speech
- Places too much power in the hands of a small group of people, specifically the ADA
- Could inhibit innovation

According to the Legislative Reference Bureau analysis, "In the bill, the practice of dietetics and nutrition care services includes assessing nutritional needs and dietetic and nutrition therapy and excludes the retail sale of food products or vitamins"

I would simply break this statement down by saying that a nutritionist is someone who says, "If you have this...do that" only with certification

So if my wife offers advice to a friend, who is suffering from diarrhea and is rapidly losing weight, to stay away from gluten-based bread, would she be risking a charge of "practicing dietetics or nutrition therapy" without a license?

Would Elisabeth Hasselbeck, author of the book, *The G-Free Diet: A Gluten-Free Survival Guide*, be in violation of the same? She doesn't have any board credentials that I am aware of. She is however, a person with real-life experience, a researcher and advocate.

Again from the LRB analysis, it states a number of educational requirements, to include the requirement to

- Complete a didactic program in dietetics approved by the ADA
- Complete 900 supervised practice hours under a supervised practice program accredited by the ADA
- Pass the registration examination for dietitians established by the ADA
- Submit a letter from the ADA verifying their registration eligibility status, may obtain a temporary license

The ADA has been positioned and strengthened as the gatekeeper of all dietetic and nutritional knowledge and approver of all people who want to practice. The initials "ADA" show up 7 times in the analysis. No other group is designated as a potential counter-balance to provide a difference of opinion. There is no room for competition in the approval/licensure process.

But there is now a tremendous opportunity to more strongly influence the thinking of the current and future generations of dieticians by industry. Because if this bill passes, then an industry marketing representative can easily get to the board members, all ADA members, through their sponsorship of the association?

Why would I say this? My customers are professional association executive directors and their number one issue is generating non-dues revenue. One of the greatest sources of non-dues revenue is corporate sponsorship.

And who are some of these corporate members, listed on the ADA's national website.

http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/home_10575_ENU_HTML.htm.

1. The Coca Cola company
2. Pepsico
3. Cargill
4. General Mills
5. Kellogs
6. MARS

When I was a student in WI public schools we were taught that soda, sugary cereals and candy were junk food. So the top corporate sponsors of the American Dietetics Association are the purveyors of junk food.

I'd like to review the following facts that have been established by the US Centers of Disease Control.

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/overweight/overweight_adult.htm

1. An estimated 32.7 percent of U.S. adults 20 years and older are overweight, 34.3 percent are obese and 5.9 percent are extremely obese. - 2005-2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).
2. The NHANES 2005-2006 data for persons age 20 years and over suggest an increase, between the late 1980s and today, in obesity in the United States, with the estimated age-adjusted prevalence moving upward from a previous level of 23 percent in NHANES III (1988-94) to approximately 34 percent.

These trends have occurred under the current leadership of the American Dietetics Association, who are sponsored by the corporate manufacturers of junk food.

Given the well documented challenges of obesity and diabetes, it is fair to say that the current dietetics and nutrition leadership paradigm has not been successful. There is no reason to trust the same people who have navigated us into these dire straits to navigate us out.

Please note: This next section is more extemporaneous since I ran out of time to write it up

Innovation – People, teachers, leaders, farmers and innovators are finding solutions out of the mainstream. A narrowed approval authority will limit the discourse and discovery. Innovation happens at the fringes not in the mainstream.

Conclusion:

I ask you to not increase the authority of the ADA and their corporate sponsors by promoting the changes articulated in SB 115. If possible please include alternative associations an opportunity to counter-balance to the ADA.

Thank you.



Dona J. Meyer

**1921 Fremont Ave
Madison WI 53704**

September 17, 2009

RE: Restrictive Dietary Licensing Legislation bill, SB115

Dear Sir/Madam:

I want to officially speak against the Dietitian/Nutritionist licensure bill, ~~SB115~~ ^{SB115}

My experience with medical doctors and dietitian/nutritionalists has been a negative one.

I have been affected in an extremely positive way by people who are not registered dietitian/nutritionists. In fact, I think that some dietitians/nutritionists give incorrect advice for some people. I have been told to eat foods that have made me ill for many years because of a dietitian/nutritionalist. She did not take into account food allergies and other issues that could negatively affect someone like myself. In fact, many years ago, I saw a dietitian due to some health concerns, and she told me to eat the foods that ended up being bad for me. Between her and my medical doctor, neither took the time to find out what my real health issues were before prescribing drugs and special foods. Only through a naturopathic doctor, did I get healthy and find out that I am allergic to wheat, beef and intolerant to dairy. The dietitian said to eat wheat bread, lean beef and lots of dairy. With my medical doctor and dietitian, I gained weight, felt awful and in my opinion, could have caused many other health issues. In fact, since I have completely gone off wheat, my asthma is completely gone and my weight is at a good level. I completely feel that this is due to my naturopathic doctor and clinic finding out what my problems were before telling me what I needed to eat and what supplements to take.

I do not believe that dietitians/nutritionists are really trained appropriately for **all** people. Some it works for and others **NEED** other resources that are crucial to the health of Wisconsin and the United States. In fact, I believe that they (dietitians/nutritionists) have a tendency to **NOT** be trained well enough on all levels. Just look at the many times the "food chart-food pyramid" has been changed. They also seem to suggest mostly processed foods and not enough natural, fresh foods in my experience. This bill would only give them a monopoly on health and that is just wrong. We all need alternatives.

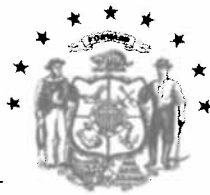
There is no reason to make this bill a law because all it is doing is making Dietitians/Nutritionists rich in money and the rest of American poor in health. America is supposed to give freedom of religion and all other issues. Give us the freedom to choose our own health care professionals. That is what America is all about. Keep America healthy and allow us to make our own choices. Keep the government out of the mix, please.

I greatly appose this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dona Meyer





SANDY PASCH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Senate Bill 115
Testimony of Representative Sandy Pasch
September 17, 2009

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. As the lead Assembly cosponsor of Senate Bill 115, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this legislation.

Senate Bill 115 will help guarantee that only qualified individuals are providing evidence-based nutrition therapy for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases or medical conditions. Creating a scope of practice for these highly trained nutrition experts will help ensure patient safety, increase access to quality healthcare, and help individuals easily identify properly trained and educated nutrition professionals.

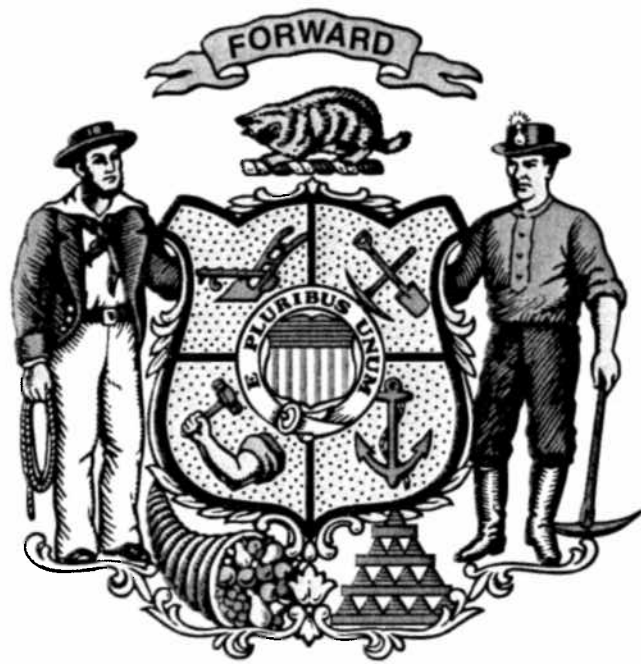
It is my firm belief that registered dietitians are uniquely qualified to provide evidence-based nutrition therapy, and their unique education and experience should be recognized through licensure of their specialized practice. All registered dietitians are required to at least hold a bachelor's degree and complete 900 hours of supervised practice, pass a standardized national exam, and maintain continuing education.

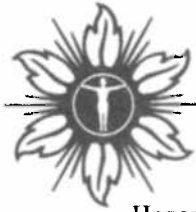
Especially during these tough economic times, more and more individuals are obtaining medical treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities. Consequently, there is a need to increase transparency of provider credentials for members of the public when they are obtaining services. This legislation will help prevent confusion and potential harm for health care consumers who deserve to know if their nutrition services are being provided by individuals qualified to do so

It is important to ensure that this bill will not prohibit highly-trained individuals from providing valuable health information to their clients. We must continue to maintain access to valuable nutrition information, but in turn we must work to ensure the health and safety of those seeking these services. Therefore, there is a clause in this bill which exempts alternative practitioners from providing their clients with information on healthy lifestyles or general nutrition information regarding the use of foods and dietary supplements.

As a nurse, I recognize the importance of increasing access to quality healthcare while ensuring patient safety, and this bill will work to do just that.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and allowing me to testify on its behalf.





The Coalition for Natural Health

September 17, 2009

Honorable Tim Carpenter, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation
Room 306 South
State Capitol
PO Bo 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Why Dietitian Licensing Is Bad For Wisconsin?

The Coalition for Natural Health (CNH) is a broad-based group of organizations and individuals in the natural health field who share a common goal: to promote the holistic approach to health and to ensure that natural health alternatives remain widely accessible to the public.

A sound nutritional base lies at the heart of any program designed to improve health. There are various perspectives as to what constitutes an optimum diet, many of them similar as to their major points. The differences are frequently in the details, rather than in the broader issues. People are not all the same, and the diet that is perfect for one may be wrong for another. It is most important to remember that nutrition is an area that contains many different, but equally valid, points of view. Keeping these ideas in mind, consider the problem of licensing dietitians as the only group allowed to dispense information and advice about nutrition.

First there is the question of licensure itself. Proponents claim that licensure protects the public. Yet licensure is no assurance of quality. Moreover, there has been no documented instance of a nutritionist or nutrition counselor, or the like, harming anyone through educational efforts and thus no compelling case to be made for licensure. One thing is certain: licensure protects those who are licensed and the special interest groups behind them. In this case, it would give one group, dietitians, a virtual monopoly on dispensing nutrition information and advice, while making it illegal for others to do so.

Dietitians work chiefly in the areas of food systems management, planning school lunches or hospital meals, feeding large numbers of people for the least cost. Dietitians use their training on occasion to formulate specific meal plans for some people who have specific health problems, for example kidney disease. There are many perspectives on nutrition for which most dietitians simply have no training and, therefore, can never recommend. Yet these nutritional philosophies--such as organic foods, whole foods and vegetarian--have definite health benefits.

Today, people may obtain advice about nutrition from many sources--dietitians, nutritionists, naturopaths, alternative health practitioners, chiropractors, nurses and dentists, to name a few. Each of these practitioners is likely to have a somewhat different point of view, and each is able to give sound advice. A strict licensure law would narrow the scope of information that is available to the public by greatly restricting the number of professionals who can legally advise others about their diets.

If Senate Bill 115 were signed into law, then dietitians would be licensed as the sole providers of nutrition information to the public. This would:

- # Protect individuals who are part of a small, special-interest group.
- # Hurt individuals whose training and philosophy constitute different points of view.
- # Limit the public's access to a wide range of valid information about nutrition.
- # Disrupt the practices of many qualified professionals, other than dietitians, who currently dispense nutrition advice.

If the field remains unlicensed, there will be:

- # An open and fair marketplace for nutrition information.
- # Lower costs to consumers.
- # More scope for diversity using valid approaches to nutrition.

Dietetics' licensure is bad for most nutrition practitioners, bad for the public and bad for Wisconsin. We urge you to vote against SB 115. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Boyd J. Landry
Executive Director

DC OFFICE:
PMB 100-408
1220 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-4018

CALIFORNIA OFFICE:
Post Office Box 16246
San Diego, CA 92176-6246

1-800-586-4CNH (4264)
DC Residents 202-216-9488
Fax 1-800-598-4CNH (4264)

cnh@naturalhealth.org
www.naturalhealth.org



Dear Senator Sheila Harsdorf,

I understand voting will come up on SB115 next week on Thursday, September 17.

Please vote NO to this bill.

I have seen Karen Hurd and she has helped me beyond what any doctor or other person has done for my health. She is extremely knowledgeable in nutrition. I lost over 20 lbs with her nutritional counseling. My fibromyalgia pain disappeared immensely in my shoulders and throughout my body. I have slept better, have more energy and feel great!. I have never felt this way being treated by doctors with anti-depressants for sleep and pain for over 19 years. Doctors used to think fibromyalgia was all in a patients head. Well doctors don't know everything. A person needs to be "in charge" of their own health - whether it be a doctor or someone like Karen Hurd to assist one in nutrition knowledge, chemistry and understanding how our body works.

Being on the Wisconsin High Risk plan allows me no options for other health insurance. Patients need to do what is best for them. Karen has been a BEST for me. With the state of our nation's health insurance costs rising and millions un-insured, patients need to be able to have a choice. At least I have a choice in choosing Karen. What we put in our mouth's to feed our body's is important. Companies continue to make food taste good by adding more sugar, salt and other additives so we become addicted. This needs to be stopped. Us American's are the largest weighted persons because of this food addiction.

No doctor has ever given me as much information as Karen has. As an American, Karen is "my Choice" and I am glad I have that choice. PLEASE VOTE "NO" on SB115.

Thank you for you time.

Laura Bagan
N6404 County Road K
Menomonie, WI 54751



Dear Senator Kreitlow and Representative Dexter,

There is a hearing on Sept 17, I believe, that will be about a bill SB115, in support of the ADA (American Dietetic Association) and its practices. Speaking from direct personal experience, I urge you to reject this bill.

The reason is because there is an alternative to the ADA, called Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition. I have been treated by one of the nutritionists that belongs to this coalition. She remedied a particularly painful condition that I suffered with for several years that was a result of shingles .

Given the status of health care in our country at this time, I think it only makes sense to allow citizens the ability to choose among other alternatives to the ADA. As I understand it, SB115 would make it virtually impossible to consult a nutritionist for food advice. I believe that this is a mistake.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the hearing personally, but hope that you will strongly consider my opinion. Without the benefit of sound nutritional advice, I am convinced that I would be disabled. I will be glad to provide details if you contact me.

Sincerely,

Charlie Brovan
1608 Aylmer Court
Eau Claire 54703
715-832-2327

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)
September 12, 2009



9/17/2009

SB 115?

"Thank you, Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to read my statement into the record.

I am Syncha Maniscalco the Director of the Health Freedom Coalition and I derive no income from the sale or advice of nutritional products. As my contribution to society I would like see unhindered access to natural dietary/health services information for future generations.

- **After 3.5 decades of chronic illness**, caused by a food allergy. I received free advice from a health food store that a food maybe the source of the illness, removed the food and illness ceased. During the 35 years I was given 100's prescription for drugs and 100's visits to medical doctors, I found relief from chronic illness in natural, non toxic methods. This is a story you will hear repeated here today.
- **This story is also told by** 38.3% of adults (83 million persons) and 11.8% of children (8.5 million children under age 18 years) **or 50.1%** of the population. The most recent national estimates of out-of-pocket expenditures for CAM (Complimentary Alternative Medicine) therapies are now more than a decade old according the CDC report dated July 30, 2009.
- **Out of pocket expenditures for services reduce** the burden on the health care system.
- ***The Wisconsin Dietetic Association (WDA) and its national parent organization, the American Dietetic Association (ADA), are very heavily subsidized and sponsored by major processed food and pharmaceutical manufacturers.*** These companies take a very dim view of any recognized health care professional community which disputes their claims of the safety and healthfulness of their products. ***This bill therefore presents a conflict of interest between the WDA's stated goal of providing unbiased, reliable nutritional advice to the public, and their obligation to their financial benefactors.***

- ***The WDA's and ADA's track record in employing dietary intervention to address important public health issues does not merit handing sole control of nutritional counseling in Wisconsin over to them.*** This is reflected in the soaring national prevalence of obesity (142.0 million Americans are obese) and its growing prevalence in Wisconsin, the persistence of diet and lifestyle-related illnesses such as cancer and heart disease as the leading causes of death, and the rapid rise of others, such as adult onset diabetes, all of which reflect the results of the dietary advice offered by the WDA and ADA.
- ***SB115 would result in the loss of THOUSANDS of entrepreneurial health care businesses*** and forcing consumers to be served by a "one-size-fits-all" philosophy of nutritional counseling. It would deprive thousands more in many cases, their only accessible and affordable source of health care. Wisconsin can not afford to shut down business with a \$6.5 billion deficit.
- ***In a Chiropractic – May 23, 1990, Vol. 08, Issue 11,*** The level of malnutrition in U.S. hospitals is reported to be staggering, causing upwards of 50,000 preventable deaths per year, with many more patients being adversely affected. One must contemplate the evidence and the current state of health in our nation. What does the future hold if we as citizens and legislators permitted licensed dietitians to remain in charge?
- ***Discussion of food must remain in the public domain*** and not subject to licensure.
- ***In conclusion:*** Minnesota, California, Rhode Island, Louisiana, Idaho, Oklahoma, and New Mexico have enacted Health Freedom legislation. It is now time to enact a similar Health Freedom law in Wisconsin to protect consumer access to low cost natural health remedies.



SB 115?

9/17/09

Mr. Chairman and the Committee,

My name is Lisa Warner. I work as a registered nurse in Milwaukee. The way I see it there are two separate groups of people represented here. While there is some overlap of services provided there is a major difference in training and philosophy of care. I oppose SB 115 for many reasons.

I view natural care providers as providers of critically needed services. For my family they have been a literal life-line and a safety net. My husband was so sick he could no longer work a full time job. His health is restored after following nutritional therapy our nutritionist prescribed. He now works at FedEx & coaches soccer.

I was very ill 2 1/2 years ago after a chemical & mold exposure. 7 doctors later, 3 trips to urgent care and 2 ER room visits - nothing was done to help my daily pain, fatigue & tremors. The support & advice of my nutritionist and his staff have been extremely helpful to me.

Please oppose SB 115 that would currently limit access to this very necessary public service.

Thank you,

Lisa Warner



September 17, 2009

SB15?

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2001 I have had an issue with constant pain in both my upper arms, as a result of this I would make an appointment with my physician who would then prescribe a pain medication which would only mask the pain temporarily. Of course once off the meds I was given shots to both arms again, temporary relief if anyafter the shots I went to therapy...again...no relief. The one item I did receive from traditional medicine was a huge medical bill.

My daughter introduced me to food based supplements. Now in 2009 for the first time in eight years I am pain free! I'm feeling healthier and can do things I haven't been able to do in eight years, this is what I call a blessing and "Quality of Life!" I am very grateful to live in a country and have the opportunity where I can purchase supplements and have natural health as my alternative, I just can't imagine where I would be today without this choice. People are much more educated then we give them credit for. One of the supplements which have helped me immensely is Ligafex II.

I am very discouraged to think that in our country a group of people want to take away my right to go to Natural Health Practitioners and take vitamins/supplements which have proven to help me and other people's quality of life without endangering us! I can make my own decisions on what I want to do and how I want to live my life. I am a functioning adult and do not rely on our government to pay my way in life or make decisions for me. We have cigarettes and alcohol out on the market....are groups out there stopping the sale of these items? Companies with big money won't allow it. It's about time someone stuck up for the people and not the special interest groups.

I'm an adult who can make my own decisions; I do not need someone telling me what I can and cannot do with my health. What I am saying is a lot of people have tried traditional medicine, if it works for them fine. Natural Health/Supplements work for me and others and do not harm us. I am not hurting anyone so please let us be, to be truthful I do not know where I would go if it wasn't for Natural Health & Supplements. I was raised to believe in *Freedom of Choice*....please don't take my freedom away.

Thank you,



Kathy Stein



September 17, 2009

SB115?

Re: Personal Testimony

Wisconsin Legislators:

I want to introduce myself to you because I am someone whose life has completely changed since I have known and worked with Karen Hurd. My name is Lisa Kundel, I am 42 years old and I am a wife of 21 years to my husband and a mother to our 18 year old son and 16 year old daughter. I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder called Myasthenia Gravis over 15 years ago. At the time of my diagnosis my children were toddlers and I was working full-time as a special education teacher in the Eau Claire School District.

My non-registered nutritionist

After diagnosis, I continued working in that capacity for two years. However, due to my increasing severity in my disease symptoms (extreme muscle weakness, affecting my arms, hands, legs, neck, chewing/talking/swallowing muscles, as well as muscles used for vision and breathing) which interfered with my daily job responsibilities, I was forced to give up my career as a teacher which I had worked hard to attain. I spent the next several years working with different neurologists who recommended different pharmaceutical drug regimens. My disease management was always a tremendous frustration to me because not only did I have the symptoms of the disease itself to deal with, but I was continually dealing with the severe side effects of the high doses of the different medications I was on.

Approximately four years ago, my disease state started to decline to the point that I began researching to locate a neurologist who specialized in my disease. I found a doctor, Dr. E. Tiryaki, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and began treatment under her care. She ordered a specific known treatment, IVIG, for me and I had an *unexpected* allergic reaction that put me in a Myasthetic Crisis where I was hospitalized and in the CCU for a week. I spent the next several months undergoing several outpatient plasmapheresis treatments as

well as adhering to an aggressive drug therapy regimen. It was at this time that I knew I needed to do something different in my life because I did not want to live this way. I spent more time in bed than out of bed. But I wanted to give these ^{medical} treatments a fair chance so I continued with it for one full year after my hospitalization.

The summer of 2008 I went to see Karen Hurd. I told her of my medical history and current condition of my disease control. Upon listening intently and asking many questions, she gave me a nutritional plan that I could begin implementing immediately, while keeping my drug therapies the same. Within three months of adhering strictly to this plan, I began noticing that my good days (few symptoms) outnumbered my bad days (symptoms requiring me to be bed-ridden). Since that time, I have continued to follow the instructions Karen Hurd has given me...my life is completely different. Instead of everyone in my family having to care for me, I can be the wife and mother I have so longed to be. I attend most of my kids' events, I am a volunteer adult leader in their youth group at church and I can do the things I enjoy doing ^{and} caring for my family ^{and others}. So many things that I have not been able to do I can now do because I have the strength and health to do them.

This past year my neurologist, Dr. Tiryaki, has been more than impressed by my "miraculous" improvement. She admits that the reason for my turn around has ^{little} ~~nothing~~ to do with her; "keep doing what you're doing and seeing your nutritionist because it's working," is what she tells me. My doctor loves seeing me as her patient because I am one of her healthiest ones. Since my progress with my nutritional treatment plan, I have been able to decrease my medications ^{by} 50% and the trend continues.


^{with the advisement of my neurologist,}
I live with a disease that I will have for the rest of my life. I am truly grateful for the journey I have been on because what I have learned and continue to learn about this life is invaluable. One great nugget of truth, a pearl of wisdom, that I have come to treasure is that had it not been for my personal freedom to choose my treatments within every step of my journey, I literally would not be here today. I am

an educated, intelligent, discerning and capable woman. For many years I sat in the offices of different neurologists, all having their prestigious titles, licenses, degrees and years of training, while they each told me what they thought I needed to best control my disease. In MY experience as a consumer of health care over the past 15 years, it is to my great benefit to not sit in a doctor's office ^{or ANY OFFICE} with passivity and a false sense of security as I read all the distinguished framed certificates and licenses hanging on the wall. Instead, it is my right as an individual to ask questions and seek to understand what I am being told. It is then my freedom as a citizen of the United States of America to choose what I believe; to choose what is good and right by my own personal health in determining treatment methods in my disease control. ^{and oversees health management.} This is NOT the place of government to choose for me or to revoke my freedom to choose for myself. I am 100% against

Lisa Kundel
4511 Kensington Court
Eau Claire, WI 54701

SB115 and as a citizen of the state of WI, I ask you, my state ~~representatives~~ representatives, to completely drop this action.

Thank you!

Sincerely,




SB 115?

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH
Testimonial of Cindy Donnelly
September 17, 2009

In the past 3 years we have experienced a journey of emotional lament, from a sickness we knew little about that took my health to the lowest I have ever been, to the joyful road of recovery and hope. I say we because my sickness affected our whole family and brought great stress on each member.

We were living a typical stressful American life; always on the go. We thought we could do it all. We home schooled our two children with the challenges and responsibilities that go with that commitment. We labored in love through the adoption process of our son Sujay. The immunizations we had to take before going to India were overwhelming to my body. I was sick for several days after each regimen. Our daughter had rheumatic fever several years prior, which in both cases, were misdiagnosed by the doctors in Eau Claire.

Our lifestyle was such that I did not always eat a healthy diet. I ate lots of sugar, little fiber and an insufficient amount of protein. I ate lots of carbohydrates and would often experience blood sugar drops but kept right on going. For years I had trouble sleeping which kept getting worse with time. In the summer of 2006, we had our basement painted and within days I went from relatively functioning to barely moving. I became fatigued, my ears were plugged, I had difficulty breathing, my heart was pounding wildly and my anxiety level was extremely high. We went from doctor to doctor to find answers and relief. Some said they just didn't know. Others gave misdiagnoses. I was put on an array of drugs to see if they would help, which none did. One doctor put me on a wheat free, dairy free, sugar free, egg free diet. I tried it for 7 months and lost 40 pounds and was weaker than I had been. I was in and out of the hospital because of severe diarrhea and had to have IV's to restore fluids and electrolytes that were lost. I had to be in bed a

lot of the time. I taught my kids school lessons from bed as I struggled to breathe while trying to read to them. My husband Mark had to take time off work to help teach the kids. He took over all the household duties. He told me later that he was fearful to come in to check on me in the morning, afraid that I would be dead.

We decided we were going to look for another avenue of help. We were in a place of desperation when we became aware of Karen Hurd's practice. The day I met Karen, I could hardly eat because of digestive problems. I had pain throughout my body, symptoms of bradycardia, insomnia, chemical sensitivities, hormonal imbalances, difficulty breathing and anxiety. Karen gave me her diet plan and I began right away to eat only what she suggested. In a couple of months I started to feel better. I was on the bean diet for seven months when the doctor I was seeing, removed my medication too quickly. I went into withdrawals which were aggravated by what I now knew was adrenal fatigue. I had adrenalin surges continuously for two months and could not sleep at all. I thought I would go literally crazy. Karen did not abandon me but kept encouraging me when I was at the lowest point possible. I went to see a different doctor who helped me adjust my medication. After months of recovery again I began to feel better and continued upward, gaining strength and a new hope that I would win this battle with my health.

I have worked with Karen for almost two and a half years now. This past April I was able to attend the Viennese Ball with my husband. We danced most of the night and had a wonderful time. I came to Karen Hurd, a nutritionist, with chronic fatigue and chemical sensitivities, having been passed off and harmed at the hands of certain doctors. I am amazingly not opposed to doctors but I am glad that I had the right to choose to see a

nutritionist. An extremely gifted, educated and compassionate one, who in my opinion saved my life. I'm just beginning to really live again!

I am here to testify that I was helped by a nutritionist and if this bill, SB115 would have been law, I would not have had that choice. I hate to think of where I might be now. I'm glad I live in America and have the privilege of making my own choices about my healthcare. I oppose bill SB115 and its amendments. Thank you.



To the Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on SB 115

Date?

Why I oppose S B 115

My name is Dr Pam Jaffke and my life has been positively impacted by the fact that my friend had the freedom to tell me about nutritional supplements that have literally saved my life and my Veterinary career

In 1995 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. The disease forced me to cut back to part time at work and even that was a struggle. I had seriously considered quitting altogether and going on disability, but giving up is not in my genetic make-up. Drugs slowed the progression of the disease, but I was still losing the overall battle.

Then in 1998 my friend Lori, introduced me to a company whose nutritional products help to regenerate the body and bring it back into balance. I was skeptical at first, as you might be now, but I thought "It's only food, and besides I know Lori has my best interests at heart."

Lori is not a Doctor or licensed Dietitian. She is what you would call a "lay person." However, you do not have to be a professional to understand the basic principles of nutrition and how to incorporate them into our daily lives for maximum benefit.

And how am I doing today, eleven years later? I am still working as a dairy Veterinarian. Without my Sunrider foods, I am convinced that I would be on permanent disability. Instead I am a working member of society, paying taxes and using the skills for which I had been trained.

I have remained part time so I have the free time to tell others about my remarkable journey. What good could come out of a law that would stifle my freedom to share what I have learned and experienced? I have helped numerous people, including Rep. Williams daughter, to also benefit from the Sunrider foods. Why would you want to take that right away from me?

To quote the great Albert Einstein, "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom."

Pamela Jaffke DVM
715 229 4195
P.O. Box 283
Owen, Wi. 54460



09-11-2009
Dear Senator V. Wehout

Date?

My search for good health was because of my wife's illness. We both went to see Karen Hurd. I realized I would need to make changes in my eating habits in order to make sure my wife was successful.

Please vote against SB115, I was able to find help for Gayle because I had a choice of who I wanted to go too. This bill as it is written will stop that choice.

Gayle had hypersomnia. She had been taking Ritalin for 15 years. Following Karen's advice the sleep disorder went away & ~~she~~ ^{Gayle} is no longer taking Ritalin.

As a result of helping Gayle eat right I was told by my doctor to stop taking high blood pressure pills. Karen's advice to me about eating allowed me to stop taking high blood pressure med which I had been taking for 20 years. It took less than a month to be off meds

Dummy Dodge

1-715-529-6492



To Senator Russ Decker

Date?

From Marilyn Butterfield
W10644 Peterson Rd
Ladysmith, WI 54848
(715) 868-5369

I would appreciate your voting NO
to bill SB115. I am opposed to SB115 and
its amendments. I am in favor of Health
Freedom legislation.

My daughter and I have both had the opportunity
to receive counsel from a Nutritionist who
works with our family doctor. We have both
been helped through the counsel. My daughter
has rheumatoid arthritis and a high blood pressure
and weight problems. Through the counsel
received, we are both much better.

I feel that it is important to have a
choice in whom a person/family can receive
nutritional information from.

Sincerely
Marilyn Butterfield



Suzan Maas
W3480 Luttmann dr
Watertown, WI, 53094

Date?

Senators,

Please vote against bill SB115. It would take away rights of many Health Practitioners who have helped many people such as myself through natural means.

I received help from several practitioners concerning Lyme Disease that I was diagnosed with. Through their help in suggesting juicing of vegetables, using essential oils, taking natural vitamins and doing other simple things, I am able to live a very normal life, and no longer have the pain and complications that lyme disease brings.

My brother, who is battling cancer and has been on chemo for the last 7 months, has not lost his hair and has not had a lot of other complications that other people have had, because of the advice of natural practitioners. His white blood cell is also up amazingly high, because of the natural things he's been doing.

Please vote against this bill that would inhibit so many Health Practitioners who have helped so many people through natural means.

Thank You,
Suzan Maas