



NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

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National Health Freedom Action STATE ACTION UPDATE

*For Safe Harbor Exemption Laws for Independent Health Care Practitioners
June 2011*

NHFA is committed to supporting the passage of Safe Harbor Exemption bills for independent health care practitioners that do not hold state occupational licenses and are currently practicing in the public domain. Historically these practitioners have been unfairly charged with practice of medicine without a license. Safe Harbor exemption laws for these practitioners are needed in order to protect consumer access to the broad range of health care and healing practitioners, such as herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, body workers, and culturally specific healing practices, that are not currently regulated by the states and that do not rise to the level of concern requiring state oversight, certification, registration, or licensure.

NHFA is also committed to supporting a number of other types of state bills promoting freedom of choice in health care such as: Expanded Care Practice Acts for holistic doctors and other holistic licensed professionals; bills calling for mercury free vaccines; protection of philosophical exemptions for vaccine mandates; protection of access to raw unpasteurized foods such as raw milk and farm fresh products; bills that protect parent rights to choose alternative health care for their children; support of states that oppose mandatory participation in federal health plans.

The goal is to empower citizens to make health care decisions with the information they need. Eight states now protect consumer access to unlicensed health care practitioners, including *Oklahoma, Idaho, Minnesota, Rhode Island, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Arizona* (limited exemption for homeopaths passed in Arizona). Twenty additional states have introduced similar legislation. Other states are preparing for the future.

The following is a table of bills we have opposed or supported to protect health freedoms. Green indicates that a safe harbor law has passed in some form in that state. Following the table, you will find a brief narrative update on efforts across the United States to succeed at passing health freedom laws.

Bill Activity as of June 2011

States	Year	Bill	Action
Arizona	2011	SB 1175 mandating licensure of homeopaths that are not medical doctors	Opposed; Passed
	2011	SB 1382 freeing up use of title homeopath for homeopaths practicing under exemption laws	SUPPORTED and PASSED
California	2005	AB302 Naturopathic Doctor Registration	Supported Health Freedom safe harbor

Mission Statement

To promote access to all health care information, services, treatments and products that the people deem beneficial for their own health and survival; to promote legislative reform of the laws impacting the right to access; and to promote the health of the people of this nation.

			exemption amendments; Passed
	2001	SB577 Safe Harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners	SUPPORTED and PASSED
Colorado	2011	HB11-1173 licensing naturopathic doctors	Opposed and Defeated
	2010	HB 1371 introduced	Supported safe harbor bill – no hearing held
	2009	HB115 Naturopathic Physician Registration	Opposed and Defeated
	2007	HB08-1158 introduced Health Freedom Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Supported ; Tabled
Delaware	2008	SB317 Dietitian regulation	Supported health freedom amendments; Passed 7/9/08
Florida	2004	SB1474, H801 Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Supported ; Tabled
	2007	Drafting committee for merged bill for health freedom of multiple parties and orgs	Not introduced
Hawaii	2004	HB2036 Safe Harbor Exemption bill for unlicensed practitioners	Supported; tabled
	2006	SB2099 Homeopathic exemption from licensure requirements	Supported and Tabled
	2007	HB631, SB739 Safe Harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners	Supported; tabled
Idaho	1976	Most historic Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Passed
Iowa	2011	SSB1066, SF293 Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors	Opposed and Tabled
	2008	SF2168 Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported; tabled
	2004-2007	Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bills	Supported; tabled
Kansas	2001	SB276 Naturopathic Doctor licensing bill	Opposed; Passed Health Freedom amendments rejected
Louisiana	2008	Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom law amendments	Supported and passed
	2005	SB189 Safe Harbor Exemption bill	SUPPORTED and PASSED
Maryland	2010	HB 541/ SB 357	Supported safe harbor – hearing held with no vote taken in both House and Senate
	2009	HB1380 Exemption bill but with registration for unlicensed persons	Opposed and tabled
	2008	HB 730 Safe harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported, no action taken
	2007	Mercury Free dentistry – expanded practice bill for Dentistry	Passed and vetoed by Governor
Massachusetts	2011	S1158/H2367 Naturopathic licensing	Oppose
	2009	Safe Harbor exemption health freedom bill	Support
Michigan	2011	HB4789 Safe Harbor exemption bill	Support
	2006	SB403 Dietitian licensing	Opposed but passed
Minnesota	2011	HF255 Raw Milk delivery bill	Support
	2010	Massage Licensure bill	Opposed, successfully defeated
	2009	Assessment of Naturopathic regulation task force	Participated as member of task force and crafted clarifying amendments
	2008	Naturopathic Medicine Registration bill	Opposed - and also supported health freedom amendments exempting traditional naturopaths Passed
	2000	HF537/SB689 Complementary and Alternative Health Care	Support and PASSED
Montana	2009	SB 287 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported Passed Senate Tabled in the House 14-4

Nevada	2011	AB289 Dietician licensing bill	Opposed, adopted safe harbor health freedom amendment, and PASSED
	2011	SB412 CIM Complementary Integrative Medicine licensing bill	Opposed
	2009	SB 69 regulating all unlicensed practitioners under Integrative Medical Bd.	Opposed
	2009	SB269 Safe Harbor health freedom exemption bill	Supported and put aside until next session
New Hampshire	2007	Bill to regulate all bodywork and Reiki	Opposed
New Jersey	2010-1011	S809 and A1987 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Oppose
	2008-2009	S 1941 and A 2933 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Opposed
New Mexico	2009	HB 664 Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported Passed the House March 5, 2009 Passed the Senate March 21, 2009 Signed by Governor April 7, 2009!!!!
New York	2011	S 3556 and A 5666 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Oppose
	2011	S 1803 and A1937 Naturopathic Doctor Licensing bill	Oppose
	2008	A8733 Safe Harbor Exemption Health Freedom bill	Support
North Carolina	2011	S31 Felony law increasing penalties for misrepresenting oneself as a licensed medical doctor	Opposed and offered amendments Passed after conference committee and signed by Governor
	2011	S467 Naturopathic Licensing bill	Oppose
	2007 2009	H842 Safe harbor exemption bill	Introduced March 2009 Support
Ohio	2011	HB 259 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services Access	Support
	2010	Safe harbor exemption bill HB 442	Supported, testified, no vote
	2009	Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Support
	2008	HB580 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported
	2007	Registration bill	Opposed and defeated
	2006	HB 117 with registration for unlicensed practitioners	Opposed and defeated
	2005	HB117	Supported / but opposed after registration added
Oklahoma	1994	Exemptions for practices not allopathic mentioning protection of homeopathics	Passed
Pennsylvania	2011	HB1717 Naturopathic Licensure	Oppose
	2008	HB2499 Massage Therapy licensure	Opposed; Passed
Rhode Island	2001	TITLE 2 , Health and Safety, CHAPTER 23-74, Unlicensed Health Care Practices, SECTION 23-74-1	Supported and Passed
Texas	2011	HB1716 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services bill	Supported
	2009	SB40 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Support Tabled at 1 st hearing
	2007	Dietitian bill	Opposed and defeated
Virginia	2011	HB2487 Naturopathic Licensing bill	Opposed
	2010	Study bill to not include traditional naturopaths	Opposed, bill defeated
	2009	HB 1744 Safe Harbor Exemption health	Supported

		freedom bill	Tabled Indefinitely
	2009	HB 1820 Naturopathic Physician licensure	Opposed Defeated
	2008	HB 784 Naturopathic Physician licensing bill	Opposed Defeated
Washington	2009	HB1961 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported No hearing
	2009	Colon hydrotherapy regulation bill	Opposed
	2007	SB 6034/HB2266 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported No hearing
Wisconsin	2010	AB440, S115 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed, bill defeated
	2009	SB 155 Dietitian licensing bill	Oppose
	2009	Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Soon to be introduced Support
	2008	Dietitian licensing bill	Opposed Defeated

Arizona: Congratulations to Arizona in 2011 for strengthening their safe harbor exemption law for independent homeopaths by passing a bill that lifted the criminal charges for the use of the title “homeopath” by unlicensed practitioners! Last year Arizona was also successful in passing a safe harbor exemption law for the practice of hahnmanian principles, i.e. persons and acts exempted are “*the practice of providing treatment of the spiritual vital force in accordance with hahnemanian principles through the use of remedies that are diluted beyond the concentration of substances in drinking water and prepared in the manner described in the homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States.*” Thanks to homeopath Vega Rosenberg and his health freedom team in Arizona. Hopefully the health freedom advocates will continue to request changes in order to be able to exempt all other unlicensed practitioners from the act as well.

The sad news in Arizona in 2011 is that instead of passing a broad health freedom bill to protect the rights of non-invasive occupations to practice in the public domain, they passed a law to license non-medical non-invasive homeopaths without the proper legal language in it to safeguard other unlicensed practitioners practicing within their scope definition. There was strong opposition to a bill that would license a profession that poses no risk of harm to the public, but the bill passed.

California: California has a Safe Harbor Exemption Law, passed in 2001! California’s health freedom law protects consumer access to practitioners that are not conventional medical health care occupations licensed by the state, such as herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and other healing arts practitioners practicing in the public domain. Practitioners have an exemption from state medical licensing requirements if they practice within the safe harbor law which includes a duty to avoid prohibited conduct and to give out disclosures to their clients spelled out in the law. In addition, California now has a safe harbor exemption from naturopathic doctor registration requirements as well, passed in 2005.

Colorado: Congratulations Colorado for the 2011 defeat of the monopolistic HB11-1173 that would have licensed Naturopathic Doctors and put in jeopardy traditional naturopaths and many other health care practitioners. The bill was opposed because the bill advocates would not agree to amendments presented to them by health freedom advocates. The bill did not have clear and concise exemptions for unlicensed traditional naturopaths or other unlicensed practitioners of the healing arts. The scope of practice listed in the bill would have covered all of natural health, and, as introduced, spelled out criminal charges for anyone practicing as a naturopathic doctor that did not hold a state license to practice naturopathic medicine.

Colorado health freedom activists from Colorado’s Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation, Colorado Springs Health Freedom Steering Committee, National Health Freedom Action and Colorado Coalition for Natural Health all successfully opposed HB11-1173. It was defeated in Committee March 1, 2011, by a 7-6 vote. Health freedom advocates plan to work towards introduction of a health freedom bill in the 2012 session

Delaware: Delaware passed a 2007 safe harbor exemption clause in their Dietitian law for persons giving nutritional advice that are not licensed as a dietitian. The amendment exempts persons from criminal charges of practicing Dietetics without a license who are herbalists, retailers, or other persons making recommendations as long as they do not hold themselves out as a licensed Dietitian or Nutritionist.

Florida: Florida has a Governor’s Proclamation on Health Freedom, signed in 2003 by Governor Jeb Bush, which supports the right of unlicensed practitioners to practice and consumers to have access to those practitioners. In 2004 through 2007

Florida Health Freedom Coalition (an educational non-profit organization) and their sister organization Florida Health Freedom Action lobbying organization worked hard to promote safe harbor legislation in addition to the proclamation but have not yet passed their bill. (See Proclamation: <http://www.nationalhealthfreedom.org/InfoCenter/reports/proclamation.pdf>)

Hawaii: Representative Evans and Carroll have been Hawaii's strong advocates for health freedom, and they have worked with a very small number of people that were interested in passing a safe harbor exemption law in Hawaii. Representatives Evans and Carroll introduced health freedom legislation in 2007 to protect access to unlicensed practitioners. The bill did not get a hearing and no action was taken by the legislature due to lack of grassroots and consumer presence, so Hawaii citizens are encouraged to gather together to make their voices heard.

Idaho: Idaho has the oldest safe harbor exemption bill, passed over 30 years ago! We are grateful to Idaho for preserving access to healers. Idaho law exempts from medical licensing requirements:

A person who administers treatment or provides advice regarding the human body and its functions that:

- (i) Does not use legend drugs or prescription drugs in such practice;*
- (ii) Uses natural elements such as air, heat, water and light;*
- (iii) Only uses class I or class II nonprescription, approved, medical devices as defined in section 513 of the federal food, drug and cosmetic act;*
- (iv) Only uses vitamins, minerals, herbs, natural food products and their extracts, and nutritional supplements; and who*
- (v) Does not perform surgery;*
- (vi) Requires each person receiving services to sign a declaration of informed consent which includes an overview of the health care provider's education which states that the health care provider is not an "M.D." or "D.O." and is not licensed under the provisions of this chapter.*

Illinois: Illinois citizens wish to defeat or amend a restrictive Naturopathic Physician licensing bill that would restrict the practices of many natural health and traditional naturopathic practitioners. Individual citizens of Illinois have contacted NHFA and are interested in forming an Illinois group to support health freedom. Illinois has a Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation Coordinator that is working to gather a group together and looking forward to building a stronger movement in Illinois for health freedom. Healthkeeper's Alliance sponsors the Health Freedom Expo in Chicago annually and we meet many Illinois activists there.

Indiana: Indiana is a strong natural health state including the presence of Healthkeepers Alliance, the sponsor of the Health Freedom Expos, and Trinity College. Many natural health practitioner practice in Indiana. In 2007, a bill passed in Indiana for mandatory certification of massage therapists. NHFA opposed this bill.

Iowa: In 2011, SF293 and SSB1066, restrictive Naturopathic Doctor Licensing bills, were introduced in Iowa, but thanks to the good work of Representative Muhlbauer and other citizens, attention was brought forth about the restrictive nature of the bill, and the fact that it would jeopardize the ability of herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and many others to practice, and the bill did not move forward. Iowa Health Freedom Coalition has historically been the face of health freedom at the Iowa capitol and worked to introduce a safe harbor bill in 2010 and oppose a Naturopathic Physician Licensing bill in 2010. The organization is currently not active but leaders came forth in the time of need in 2011. In 2009 they had introduced a safe harbor exemption bill HF855, and also they were working successfully on mercury free vaccine legislation, and working on protection of children from Teen Screening. Sadly, the Chairman of the Health and Human Services committee in the House refused to give the safe harbor bill a hearing, blocking it from Committee discussions and votes. The bill would have exempted unlicensed practitioners such as herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and many natural health care providers from existing law of criminal charges of practicing medicine without a license.

Kansas: In 2001, Kansas passed a Naturopathic Doctor licensing bill. Kansas for Health Freedom is seeking a team to work for their own health freedom legislation. Two Board members from National Health Freedom Action and one Board member from national Health Freedom Coalition are located in Kansas and they participated in the gatherings and are very interested in joining together with advocates for health freedom. In addition, Dale Scott, national Board member of Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation, is located in Kansas and eager to gain supporters for their movement.

Kentucky: Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation has a coordinator in Kentucky named JD Riggs. National Health Freedom Action has been in contact with Riggs regarding possible health freedom bill language and Riggs is communicating with his Representative and is organizing to start on a Health Freedom Bill.

Louisiana: Louisiana is one of the eight states that have passed a safe harbor exemption health freedom law that provides safe harbor to the unlicensed practitioners. Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition (LHFC) has been very committed to having a stellar law to protect their natural health care practitioners and we commend LHFC and their wonderful President, Cynthia Reed, and her team for their national leadership in this effort.

Maine: There is no 2011 news on Maine's work on getting a safe harbor bill. In 2007, Maine LD 1516 and SP 539, entitled the Act to Permit Certain Health Care Practices, was introduced and June 13th the Majority "ought not to pass" report was accepted and the bill ended. Maine is interested in building a larger freedom group now to work for the future.

Maryland: On April 27, 2011, the state of Maryland notified the renowned Dr. Mark Geier, MD, that his medical license would be immediately suspended. Dr. Geier is an expert in the area of mercury toxicity, and is one of the most important and passionate leaders in the health freedom community working locally, nationally, and internationally, to get mercury removed from vaccines. The Tim Bolen Report is doing an excellent job of covering the story of this incredibly unjust and bold act by the Maryland Board of Physicians. In addition, the health freedom safe harbor exemption bill was not introduced in Maryland in 2011 because the health freedom leaders had other commitments, but they are very committed to the continued movement for health freedom in Maryland. In 2010, Maryland got their health freedom bill, HB 541, introduced in the House and Senate and heard in both bodies! The bill was heard in both House and Senate with good turn out and education happening, but was not voted out of committee.

Massachusetts: In January 2011, Massachusetts introduced two bills that negatively impact traditional naturopaths. Senate Bill S.1158 and House Bill H.2367 are very restrictive naturopathic licensing bills and in April were referred to the Joint Committee on Public Health. Health freedom activists are encouraged to oppose the bills because they prohibit the use of the term "naturopath" and prohibit persons from claiming that they are practicing "naturopathic health care" which is defined very broadly to include all of natural health. There is an exemption in the licensing bill that says that some natural health will not be restricted; however note that unlicensed traditional naturopaths are not included in the exemption. The exemption includes: "*a person or practitioner who is not licensed as a naturopathic doctor pursuant to this chapter from recommending ayurvedic medicine, herbal remedies, nutritional advice, homeopathy or any other therapy that is within the scope of practice of naturopathic health care; provided, however, that such person or practitioner shall not represent himself or hold himself out to the public as practicing naturopathic health care in the commonwealth or otherwise use any name, title or other designation which indicates or implies that he is licensed to practice naturopathic health care* . Health freedom leaders need to work with the advocates of the bill to get stronger exemptions for traditional naturopaths and practitioners that practice within the scope of naturopathy and the broad arena of natural health.

Regarding safe harbor laws for unlicensed practitioners, there is no change in 2011. Massachusetts Health Freedom Coalition promoted the introduction of a health freedom bill in 2009 but the bill has not moved forward. George A. Rhoades, PhD. and homeopath Janice Mancini are leading up the health freedom efforts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The fact sheets on the Consumer Access to Health Arts bill of 2009 states: "*This bill recognizes and provides for consumer access to health arts with provisions for consumer protection and practitioner safety. Free consumer access to health arts while providing for consumers to be able to make safe and informed choices...*" The filing number in January 09 is #111409 and the first hearing on this bill took place on July 21, 2009. Massachusetts leaders are soliciting for new memberships.

Michigan: Congratulations Michigan. Michigan Representative Joel Johnson has introduced HB4789, the Michigan Consumer Health Freedom Law in June 2011. Michigan Natural Health Coalition has worked hard over the past 12 months to prepare to launch their health freedom bill protecting consumer access to traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, herbalists and many natural health care practitioners. They have successfully blocked a restrictive Naturopathic Licensing bill from being submitted, hired Judy Augenstein as their lobbyist, held a very informative and successful grass roots lobbyist training, and Rep. Joel Johnson,(R) has agreed to sponsor the health freedom bill. MNHC is now encouraging citizens to contact their legislators regarding the new bill. Michigan is the home of Reiki International (www.reiki.org) and its founder and Director, William Lee Rand, Reiki Master. In the 2006-2007 a very restrictive Dietitian licensing bill, S403, passed without adequate exemptions for unlicensed nutrition providers. There are advocates working to correct that law.

Minnesota: Minnesota has a safe harbor exemption bill, passed in 1999 and they continue to work to protect it!! Minnesota Natural Health - Legal Reform Project, lead lobbying group for the famous MN146A Minnesota Complementary and Alternative Health Freedom of Access Act of 1999, is working hard at the state capitol to keep legislators informed about top priority issues for health freedom.

This year of 2011 they introduced, HF 255, a “raw milk” bill. Minnesota had the unfortunate experience of having raids on unpasteurized product producers and delivery people. The health freedom community mobilized to protect their access to wholesome foods. Their new bill, HF 255, demands protection of access to raw milk. Raw milk is currently obtainable in Minnesota if a person goes to the farm to purchase it, but the bill will protect the ability of farmers to deliver the milk to their private customers without being harassed. The bill was heard in committee with packed hearing rooms and Minnesota Natural Health Legal Reform Project has worked hard with raw milk advocates to move the bill.

MNH-LRP also continues their long term vigilance and protection of MN146A from outside threats such as: annual funding concerns; attempts to pass legislation regulating other groups of practitioners, such as massage therapists, without protection and exemption amendments for unlicensed practitioners; and their work to repeal a bill from last year that banned workman’s comp insurance coverage of MN146A practitioner services. As of March 2010, they have helped defeat a massage licensing bill that would have not been good for MN146 practitioners. This group has also been one of the leaders in mounting a strong legislative campaign to make sure consumers are not receiving mercury in their vaccines without being informed before they receive them, and has been a watch-dog group monitoring all other forms of legislation that might support or jeopardize health freedom in Minnesota. They have also developed plans for a ground-breaking project to protect holistic doctors, and to also exempt parents out of child abuse allegations for refusing chemotherapy and radiation cancer treatments for their children.

Montana: All things quiet in Montana for 2011 thus far. Continued gratitude for Montana health freedom leaders’ three years of preparation, and Montana Health Freedom Coalition’s full steam ahead work in 2009! The Consumer Health Freedom and Access Act, sponsored by Senator Balyeat, passed the Senate 32-18 on February 23rd, 2009! After passing the Senate Committees, on March 24, 2009, the health freedom bill, SB287, was tabled in a House Committee 14-4. Montana’s bill would have provided a safe harbor exemption and protected access to herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and the many natural health care practitioners of Montana that consumers regularly use.

Nevada: In 2011 Nevada introduced AB289, a Dietician licensing bill, that had very restrictive language regarding unlicensed persons giving nutrition recommendations and advice. NHFA was in contact with Jim Jenks of Nevada Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation in opposing this bill. In the bill’s last committee when it appeared the bill had enough votes to possibly pass, we supported an amendment that exempted out unlicensed persons. The bill passed out of Committee and was signed by the Governor. The safe harbor amendment reads:

Sec. 9. 1. The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:... (d) A person who furnishes nutrition information, provides recommendations or advice concerning nutrition, or markets food, food materials or dietary supplements and provides nutrition information, recommendations or advice related to that marketing, if the person does not represent that he or she is a licensed dietitian or registered dietitian. While performing acts described in this paragraph, a person shall be deemed not to be engaged in the practice of dietetics or the providing of nutrition services.

Nevada 2011 session also introduced S412, a very controversial and restrictive bill regarding mandatory licensing of complementary health care that would have mandated that all persons have a license if they practiced “*alternative and complementary systems of healing arts and holistic therapies, including, without limitation, homeopathy, modalities, diagnostics, treatments, procedures and protocols used to treat patients.*” The bill was successfully opposed and did not move forward.

In 2009 Jim Jenks, Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation Coordinator in Nevada, worked single-handedly to move a safe harbor exemption bill SB296 forward in the Nevada legislature and was up against opposing medical interests. He will resume his efforts in 2012. The bill is a Consumer Choice Protection bill, protecting consumer access to traditional and unlicensed natural health care practitioners. National Health Freedom Action assisted in the drafting of the bill.

New Hampshire: NH activists continue to consider the possibility of introducing a safe harbor health freedom exemption bill to provide long-term protection of health freedoms in New Hampshire. In 2007, the International Center for Reiki Training supported New Hampshire activists in a grassroots challenge to an attempt to regulate Reiki under massage laws. Thanks to them for their leadership role in the grassroots efforts.

New Jersey: In 2010 New Jersey introduced S809/A1987, two restrictive Dietitian/Nutrition licensing bills. The bills did not pass. A1987 passed out of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee and was referred to the Appropriations Committee, however the companion bill was not heard in the Senate.

In 2008 NJ health freedom advocates rallied together to defeat S-1941 and A-293, two dietitian/nutrition licensing bills almost identical to the ones introduced in 2009-2010 session. They viewed the bills to be monopolistic that would have shut down any citizen giving nutritional advice or recommendations and the bills contained no proper exemptions for unlicensed practitioners. New Jersey would like to expand their advocacy group and monitor these bills. Regarding exemptions in the bills, all of the bills contain an exemption for persons giving out nutrition information. But these exemptions do not exempt a person for giving nutrition “*recommendations and advice*”. In addition, these bills group licensed dietitians and licensed nutritionists under the same statute, which is an issue for licensed nutritionists in terms of whether they agree with the educational requirements set up in these dietitian bills.

New Mexico: New Mexico has a Safe harbor exemption law, congratulations New Mexico!!! New Mexico HB664 passed and was signed into law by the Governor on April 7, 2009. New Mexico’s Complementary and Alternative Medicine Project (NMCAAMP) leaders successfully moved their safe harbor exemption bill through to passage after two years of preparation and study mandated by the legislature. NMCAANP is a health practitioner and freedom group that has worked to establish a safe harbor exemption law for persons engaged in traditional, cultural, complementary or alternative health care.

New York: In 2011 two restrictive licensing bills have been introduced in New York. One is a Dietitian licensing bill, S3556 and A5666, which is working to change the laws in NY from certifying Dietitians and nutritionists to the more restrictive licensing Dietitians/Nutritionists. The other is a Naturopathic Doctor licensing bill, S1803/A1937, which would mandate licensure of practitioners practicing naturopathy and using the term “naturopath”. Both of these bills have small exemptions in them for unlicensed practitioners, however the exemptions are not written by health freedom advocates and are inadequate to protect all of the many practitioners practicing nutrition and naturopathy and other complementary and alternative health care practices.

In the past NY has introduced very good safe harbor health freedom bills to protect the right to practice naturopathy, homeopathy, herbalism and many other vocations. However those bills have not passed. The last one was introduced January 30, 2007 by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, A8733, to exempt unlicensed persons from criminal charges of practice of medicine. For the past 10 years New York has had two organizations working to protect health freedom and access to unlicensed practitioners, NY Health Freedom and NYNCP. However at this time those organizations are not active.

North Carolina: North Carolina introduced two bills in 2011 impacting health freedom. The first was a bill to increase the penalty for the unlicensed practice of medicine from a misdemeanor to a felony. The second was a restrictive naturopathic licensing bill which would prohibit the use of the term “naturopath” and ban advertising as a naturopath unless a person is a licensed naturopathic doctor. The first bill was strongly opposed and due to the huge show of opposition, the bill was amended to limit the felony charge to people who are misrepresenting themselves as licensed medical doctors. The misdemeanor penalty for the unlicensed practice of medicine remains in the law. (This points out the urgent need for a safe harbor law for unlicensed practitioners). The second bill for licensing naturopathic doctors did not move out of committee before the session ended and is vigorously opposed by the health freedom community because it does not have proper exemptions in it for traditional naturopaths and complementary and alternative health care practitioners of all kinds that practice in the public domain and do not have medical licenses.

North Carolina activists are very interested in a bill that would protect their unlicensed traditional practitioners. Their Consumer Health Freedom Act was reintroduced into the 2009 North Carolina legislature and was scheduled for its first hearing April 2009 but it was taken off the schedule to give more time to negotiate agreed upon language. The bill was “*developed over years of work by notable health freedom advocates, in conjunction with a year long “legislative study” by a “Legislative Study Committee.” The study committee held a series of three public hearings in major NC cities (Raleigh, Asheville, New Bern) where more than four-hundred citizens expressed support for health freedom.*” Taking the lead in moving the bill and gathering support from new sources for their bill is Citizens for Health Care Freedom, a long standing reputable freedom group in North Carolina.

Ohio: Congratulations Ohio for getting HB 259 introduced on June 14, 2011, to protect consumer access to complementary and alternative health care services. Support is very broad for this Ohio bill and advocates will be ready to testify on its behalf when session resumes. In 2010 a similar bill laid the groundwork for the current bill. HB 442 was introduced March 24, 2010, and heard in Committee May 18th, 2010. The first hearing heard from proponents, and the week after the Committee heard from opponents. Ohio Sunshine Health Freedom Coalition is a strong freedom organization with a mission to establish true health freedom in Ohio by passing "THE REAL HEALTH FREEDOM BILL" without a mandatory registration requirement. Ohio freedom advocates have persistently prepared for session and now they are moving forward with a safe harbor exemption

bill to protect access to all unlicensed practitioners in Ohio. The group has worked hard reviewing language and garnering legislative support including hiring a lobbyist and aligning with other organizations in order that their bill will be successful in passage.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma is a health freedom state! Oklahoma Health Freedom Action Network has been a health freedom leader in Oklahoma and has worked hard to defeat restrictive licensing bills in the past years that would restrict access to natural and holistic practitioners. Because of this, leaders are now gathering together to design a long term solution for Oklahoma in their efforts to have natural health care protected at all times.

Oregon: Oregon has recently launched a new health freedom group and we are awaiting more information on their contact information. In addition Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation has Coordinators Mark and Sylvia Rogers in Oregon. We regret to inform you that health freedom advocate and attorney, Sandra Duffy, passed on in the fall of 2010. Sandra worked hard with Oregon and Washington leaders on behalf of health freedom and will be deeply missed. She was a valuable and dynamic leader in the freedom movement in Oregon and Washington.

Pennsylvania: NHFA opposes the recent June 23, 2011 introduction of Pennsylvania House Bill 1717, calling for mandatory licensure of naturopaths and persons practicing naturopathic medicine or using naturopathic modalities. The bill contains no health freedom amendments or exemptions for unlicensed traditional practitioners, herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, or other complementary and alternative health care practitioners. It attempts to take the term “naturopath” out of the public domain and only allow licensed Naturopathic Doctors to use the term. This bill is yet another example of a small group of people with a particular type of education, ignoring the historic culture of traditional practitioners around them and working to pass legislation that would prohibit others doing natural health practices.

Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation has a Pathfinder, Eileen Johannsen, in Pennsylvania. Eileen attended the annual leadership conference of National Health Freedom Coalition in September 2008 and is in contact with NHFA regarding potential health freedom bill language for PA. 2008 saw the introduction of a massage therapy licensure bill, HB2499 in PA which Eileen and Ruth Hoskins worked to oppose. However the bill passed with the following exemptions attached:

Nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing, restricting or requiring licensure of any of the following activities: ...

(4) The practice by an individual while performing reflexology.

(5) The practice of an individual who uses touch, words and directed movement to deepen awareness of existing patterns of movement in the body and to suggest new possibilities of movement, while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics.

(6) The practice of an individual who uses touch to affect the energy systems, acupoints, Qi meridians or channels of energy of the human body while engaged within the scope of practice of a profession with established standards and ethics. Such practices include acupressure, asian bodywork therapy, polarity therapy bodywork, quigon, reiki, shiatsu and tui na.

Rhode Island: Rhode Island has a safe harbor exemption law, passed in 2000. It followed Minnesota in its passage and the language of the law is similar in model. Coalition for Natural Health ushered this bill through the legislature, and National Health Freedom Action offered support.

South Carolina: Is working to put a health freedom group together to pass a safe harbor exemption bill. Contact NHFA for more info.

Texas: Congratulations Texas in getting your health freedom bill, AB1716, introduced and heard in both Senate and House in the 2011 session! Texas had good news and bad news in 2011. One of their most valued naturopaths was asked by the medical board to cease and desist unlicensed practice. The naturopath retained an attorney, Lara Silva, and also initiated the process of introducing a safe harbor exemption bill for unlicensed and traditional practitioners. Her attorney worked side by side with the existing health freedom organization, Texas Health Freedom Coalition, to move the bill through the legislative process. Peter McCarthy and his team of advocates, and Scott Tips of National Health Federation, worked hard to support Lara Silva and her client and the bill, and NHFA supported the leaders in the bill drafting and strategy sessions.

In 2010 TX freedom advocates held legislative networking meetings at the Capitol Club in Austin TX with legislators and their aides in spring 2010 to educate them about their upcoming introduction of a health freedom bill. Texas Health Freedom

Coalition worked hard during the 2009 session to support in large numbers the passage of HB40, the Texas Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services Act, a safe harbor exemption law, which would protect Texans' access to unlicensed natural health care practitioners such as herbalists, traditional naturopaths, and homeopaths among others. The bill included prohibited acts that providers would need to avoid and required a disclosure form to be provided to a client prior to providing services.

Virginia: The strong freedom advocates called Virginians for Health Freedom successfully opposed HB2487, a monopolistic Naturopathic Licensing bill in 2011. They are working hard to educate about the need for protecting access to all practitioners and plan to continue their efforts to pass a health freedom bill. They were also successful in 2010 in opposing a study bill that would have supported the practice of Naturopathic Physicians but not protected the practice of traditional naturopaths. In 2009, the group lobbied against a naturopathic physician licensure bill NP1820, and stopped it from passing. They also introduced HB1744, in 2009, a health freedom safe harbor exemption bill. VCNHP had an urgent challenge in January 2008, when a Naturopathic licensing bill was introduced that would have shut down all traditional naturopaths in Virginia as well as many other natural health care practitioners. VCNHP mobilized the entire natural health community and successfully convinced the legislature to take the bill off the table for the 2008 session. Virginia Certified Natural Health Care Practitioners (VCNHP) launched the new initiative in 2008 which they have titled, Virginians for Health Freedom.

Washington: Washington activists were deeply moved when their strong leader and attorney Sandra Duffy died in 2010. NHFA has worked with Sandra Duffy and the Washington Coalition leaders in their efforts and hard work to put forth a safe harbor bill in Washington. The group was inactive in 2011 session. In the past this group has held successful meetings with legislators and regulators and have worked hard to build consensus among all parties and to find a sponsor that will be a champion for health freedom.

WA is unique in that they currently have legislative intent stating that the state does not expect all health care practitioners to be licensed. However, the intent has not held up in cases against the unlicensed practitioners. Health freedom is under major attack in WA. At least seven licensed and unlicensed practitioners that provide alternative health care have been investigated in the past 2 years. In response to the investigations, activists have formed organizations with the goal of changing the laws.

Wisconsin: Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition is gearing up to introduce a health freedom bill that will protect consumer choice in health care and protect consumer access to practices, traditions, products, information benefiting health and wellness. In 2010 they successfully defeated a very restrictive Dietitian Licensing bill (AB440, S115) that would have been a direct infringement on free speech. Wisconsin leaders worked hard to educate legislators about the broad array of health care services that would be negatively impacted by the Dietitian licensing bill.

Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition has drafted a bill that will protect the rights of herbalists, naturopaths, homeopaths, and natural health care practitioners to practice without being charged with practicing medicine without a license, and it will allow them to provide nutritional advice or recommendations without having to be a state licensed occupation such as a Dietitian or medical doctor.