



**ABC for
HEALTH™**
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*Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc.
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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2025

Interview: Bobby Peterson, Executive Director ABC for Health, Inc. (608) 261-6939 x201

ABC for Health & HealthWatch Wisconsin Present “Medicaid Threats & Medical Debt Symposium”

Madison, WI – A [Medical Debt Symposium](#) will convene in Madison on **Thursday March 27, 2025**, running from **8:30am-noon at the Madison Public Library (Central Branch)**. The Symposium will spotlight research, policy, and direct client work of nonprofit, public interest law firm ABC for Health, and its education, policy, and outreach subsidiary HealthWatch Wisconsin.

Symposium Highlights: Medical debt is a public health crisis in Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, and across the country. Bobby Peterson, Public Interest Attorney and Executive Director of ABC for Health, Inc. says the Symposium will start with a presentation on emerging threats to Medicaid & BadgerCare Plus, health coverage programs relied on by almost 1 in every 5 people in Wisconsin. Recent executive orders, budget proposals, and proposed rules could reduce access to care, increase medical debt and uncompensated care, and worsen health.

Elected Dane County officials will join the conversation. County Executive Melissa Agard and Rep. Lisa Subeck will share what they are hearing from constituents on proposed threats to Medicaid, medical debt realities, and strategies to improve access to health for our loved ones, neighbors, and friends. Peterson will then review Dane County medical debt and uncompensated care data, policies, and practices.

In its [report](#) titled: “Access to Health Care & Coverage: ABC for Health, Inc. Recommendations for Dane County Hospitals,” ABC asked Dane County hospitals to improve access to health coverage and care issues to justify extensive tax breaks and better serve patients affected by health disparities and medical debts. Nationally, hospitals dedicated on average about 2.3% of revenues to charity care, while hospitals in Dane County struggle to even reach 1%. Speakers will share findings from the ABC for Health report, released in December of 2024.

ABC will share pre-recorded, powerful patient stories of families burdened by medical debt collections, wrongful denials, and credit reporting of debt, assisted through legal help.

The event registration has closed. Media are welcome, but please provide notice if they want to ask questions as we seek to avoid disruptions to our timeline and speakers.

[ABC for Health, Inc.](#), is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit, public interest law firm that promotes health equity and social justice. ABC for Health helps clients impacted by health disparities due to income, race, or poverty to connect to health care coverage and services in Wisconsin. ABC for Health’s mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.