



NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

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National Health Freedom Action STATE ACTION UPDATE July 2012

NHFA is committed to supporting state bills promoting freedom of choice in health care such as:

- State Safe Harbor Exemption laws to protect unlicensed natural health care practitioners;
- 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; and
- 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.

Note: Regarding NHFA's commitment to support **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. 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 July 2012

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	SUPPORTED and PASSED

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.

		laws	
California	2012	GMO Labeling Ballot Initiative; 560,000 physical signatures required to earn a spot on the November 2012 Ballot	Supported and Success: Signatures gathered exceeded requirement on deadline of April 22, 2012
	2011	AB 575 Licensing Dietitians	Opposed and supported health freedom amendments; Withdrawn at request of author
	2005	AB302 Naturopathic Doctor Registration	Supported Health Freedom safe harbor exemption amendments and Passed
	2001	SB577 Safe Harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners	SUPPORTED and PASSED
Colorado	2012	HB 1060 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Testified; Tabled indefinitely
	2012	Health Freedom Safe Harbor Exemption for unlicensed practitioners drafted and ready for sponsorship	Supported
	2011	HB11-1173 Naturopathic Doctor Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2010	HB 1371, "Colorado Health Freedom Act", a Safe Harbor Exemption bill, introduced	Supported; postponed indefinitely in Committee on 4/5/2010
	2009	HB115 Naturopathic Physician Registration bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2007	HB1158 Health Freedom Safe Harbor Exemption bill introduced	Supported; Tabled
Connecticut	2012	H.B. 5117, "An Act Concerning Genetically-Engineered Foods"	Supported;
Delaware	2008	SB317 Dietitian Licensing bill	Supported health freedom amendments and Passed
Florida	2007	Drafting committee for merged Naturopathic regulation bill for health freedom of multiple parties and orgs	Not introduced
	2004	SB1474/HB801 Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Supported; Tabled
	2001	Florida Statute 456.41 Complementary or alternative health care treatments law for licensed health care providers such as MDs	Enacted
Hawaii	2012	H.B. 2031, S.B. 2279 2443, 2478, and 2891 – Requiring GMO-Labeling	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2012	S.B. 2832/H.B. 2570 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2007	HB631, SB739 Safe Harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners	Supported; Tabled
	2006	SB2099 Homeopathic exemption from licensure requirements	Supported; Tabled
	2004	HB2036 Safe Harbor Exemption bill for unlicensed practitioners	Supported; Tabled
Idaho	2010	S.B. 1369 Safe Harbor Exemption from Naturopathic Physician Act	Supported and Passed
	1976	Most historic Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Passed
Illinois	2012	SB 2936 Dietitian Nutrition Licensing	Opposed and supported health freedom amendments; not passed before end of session
	2012	S.B. 3922 , Naturopathic Medical Practice Act (introduced on 05/25/2012)	Oppose
	2011	SB 2936 Dietitian Nutrition Licensing	Opposed; not passed before end of session
Indiana	2012	HB 1187 Dietitian Licensing	Opposed; not passed before end of session
Iowa	2012	H.B. 507 / S.B. 3022 Naturopathic Licensure	Opposed and Tabled
	2012	H.F. 375 Requiring GMO-Labeling for	Supported; not passed before end of

		certain products	session
	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	2012	S.B. 180/ H.B. 620 Naturopathic Physician Licensing bill	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2010	HB 541/ SB 357 Safe Harbor Exemption Bills	Supported: 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	Supported; Passed and Vetoed by Governor
Massachusetts	2012	S1158/H2367 Naturopathic licensing	Oppose; Senate Committee on Health care financing recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means on May 14, 2012
	2011	S1158/H2367 Naturopathic licensing	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2009	MA bill filing No. 111409 Health Freedom Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported; Has not moved
Michigan	2012	HB4789 Health Freedom Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Support
	2012	H.B. 5594 , licensure of naturopathic physicians (introduced on 05/03/2012)	Oppose
	2011	HB4789 Safe Harbor exemption bill	Supported;
	2006	SB403 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed: and also supported safe harbor amendments for unlicensed practitioners; Bill passed with no freedom amendment
Minnesota	2012	HF255/S.F. 147 Raw Milk Delivery bill	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2012	Amendment to Agricultural Omnibus bill clarifying MN's Constitutional right to peddle products of the farm or garden	Supported; no vote in House and defeated in Senate
	2012	H.F. 2808 / S.F. 2563 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2011	HF255 Raw Milk delivery bill	Supported; informational hearing in House but not passed before end of session
	2010	HF1503 Massage Licensure bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2009	Assessment of Naturopathic regulation task force	Participated as member of task force and crafted clarifying amendments
	2008	HF1724 Naturopathic Medicine Registration bill	Opposed: and also supported health freedom amendments exempting traditional naturopaths; Passed
	2000	HF537/SB689 Complementary and Alternative Health Care bill	SUPPORTED and PASSED
Missouri	2012	H.B. 984, H.B. 2088 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Supported; not passed before end of session
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; PASSED
	2011	SB412 Complementary Integrative Medicine (CIM) Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2009	SB 69 regulating all unlicensed practitioners under Integrative Medical Board	Opposed and did not move
	2009	SB269 Safe Harbor health freedom exemption bill	Supported; put aside until next session
New Hampshire	2007	HB 908 Bill to regulate all bodywork and Reiki	Opposed and Defeated
New Jersey	2012	H.B. 1367 Requiring GMO-labeling	Support
	2012	SB 833 Dietitian/Nutrition Licensing	Oppose
	2010-1011	S809/A1987 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2008-2009	S 1941/A 2933 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Opposed; not passed before end of session
New Mexico	2009	HB 664 Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	SUPPORTED AND PASSED
New York	2012	SB 3556/AB 5666 Dietitian Licensing bill	Oppose
	2012	S.B. 1803/A.B. 3057A and A.B. 8569 Naturopathic Licensure bills	Opposed and recommended amendment to exempt unlicensed practitioners
	2011	S 3556 and A 5666 Dietitian/Nutritionists Licensing bills	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2011	S 1803 and A1937 Naturopathic Doctor Licensing bill	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2008	A8733 Safe Harbor Exemption Health Freedom bill	Supported; not passed before end of session
North Carolina	2012	H.B. 446 Requires labeling of food and milk products that are or that contain genetically modified food and or milk and milk products from animals that have received Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (Rbgh).	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2011	S31 Felony law increasing penalties for misrepresenting oneself as a licensed medical doctor	Opposed and offered amendments; Passed with amendments after conference committee and signed by Governor
	2011	S467 Naturopathic Licensing bill	Opposed; Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on June 14, 2011 OR not passed before end of session
	2007-2009	H842 Safe harbor exemption bills	Supported; not passed before end of session
Ohio	2012	HB 259 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services Access	Supported, passed out of the House on May 24, 2012 by a vote of 66 to 29; introduced in the senate on May 29, 2012
	2011	HB 259 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services Access	Supported; heard in the Committee on Health and Aging on September 21, 2011 but no vote taken
	2010	HB 442 Safe harbor exemption bill	Supported and Testified; no vote taken
	2009	Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported; Not passed before end of session
	2008	HB580 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported; Not passed before end of session
	2007	H.B. 148 Dietitian Licensing bill with registration for unlicensed practitioners	Opposed and Defeated
	2006	HB 117 Dietitian Licensing bill with registration for unlicensed practitioners	Opposed and Defeated
	2005	HB117 Dietitian Licensing bill with exemption for unlicensed practitioners	Supported , but opposed after registration added; no action taken

Oklahoma	2012	HB 2509 repealing the police power protection sections of occupation practice acts, including dietetics, and consolidating the criminal and civil actions that can be taken against an "unlicensed" person	Opposed; but once occupation of dietetics removed, neutral
	2012	HB 2630, repealing safe harbor exemption language	Opposed; Did not move before session ended
	1994	Exemptions for practices not allopathic mentioning protection of homeopathics	Passed
Pennsylvania	2012	H.B. 1717 Naturopathic Licensure bill	Opposed; Not passed before end of session
	2011	HB1717 Naturopathic Licensure bill	Opposed; Not passed before end of session
	2008	HB2499 Massage Therapy licensure	Opposed; Passed
Rhode Island	2012	H.B.7494 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Support
	2001	Safe Harbor Exemption bill: TITLE 2 , Health and Safety, CHAPTER 23-74, Unlicensed Health Care Practices, SECTION 23-74-1	SUPPORTED AND PASSED
South Dakota	2012	H.B. 1170 Emerging Complementary and Alternative Health Care Professions Licensure Board bill	Opposed and Tabled
Tennessee	2012	H.B. 3678 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Supported; not passed before end of session
Texas	2011	HB1716 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Services bill	Supported; No vote taken
	2009	SB40 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported; Tabled at 1 st hearing
	2007	SB1209 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
Vermont	2012	H.B. 722 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Support
Virginia	2011-2012	H.B. 345 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Tabled
	2011-2012	H.B. 543 Massage Licensing bill	Opposed; but after successful negotiations for health freedom amendments, became neutral; Governor vetoed
	2012	S.B. 606 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2011	HB 2487 Naturopathic Licensing bill	Opposed; Tabled
	2010	Study bill to not include traditional naturopaths	Opposed and Defeated
	2009	HB 1744 Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported; Tabled Indefinitely
	2009	HB 1820 Naturopathic Physician licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2008	HB 784 Naturopathic Physician licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
Washington	2012	H.B. 2637 / S.B. 6298 Requires the labeling of foods containing genetically engineered material	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2009	HB1961 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported; No hearing
	2009	WA Dept. of Health Sunrise Review Hearing concerning registration of colon hydro therapist	Opposed registration: No regulation went forward
	2007	SB 6034/HB2266 Safe harbor exemption health freedom bill	Supported; No hearing
West Virginia	2012	HB 4045 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed; not passed before end of session
	2012	H.B. 2178 Requiring GMO-Labeling	Support
Wisconsin	2012	S.B. 280, the "Wisconsin Consumer Choice and Wellness Legislation" introduced November 4, 2011	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2012	LRB 0253/1 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated

	2011	LRB 0253/1 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2010	AB440, S115 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2009	SB 155 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated
	2009	Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	Supported; not passed before end of session
	2008	SB394 Dietitian Licensing bill	Opposed and Defeated

Arizona: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2011 strengthened **Safe Harbor Exemption Law** for independent homeopaths via passing bill to repeal the criminal charges for the use of the title “homeopath” by unlicensed practitioners.

2011 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 hahnmanian 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.”*

California: Congratulations to California for their GMO Labeling Ballot Initiative! On June 11, 2012 CA Secretary of State announced that the *California Right To Know Genetically Engineered Food Act* qualified to be on the November 6 ballot and news of the proposition number, #37, was released in early July! So, vote “Yes on 37!” Volunteers are building their professional staff behind the scenes and are gearing up for the win in November. They submitted physical signatures in excess of the 560,000 necessary for a successful Ballot Initiative by the deadline of April 22, 2012 and grateful food freedom activists across the country hope that success in California will set the trend for consumers’ right to know of GMOs nationwide.

CA successfully opposed A.B. 575, a bill to license the occupation of dietetics. Existing law provides title protection to the terms “registered dietitian” or “dietetic technician” and A.B.575 sought to repeal these provisions and enact new provisions providing for the licensing and regulation of dietitians, specifying a scope of practice exclusive to dietitians and creating criminal charges for the unlicensed practice of "Dietetics", defined so broadly as to include “the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of food, nutrition, management, and communication, and from the biological, physiological, behavioral, and social sciences to achieve and maintain optimal human health.”

American Nutrition Association and NHFA drafted amendment language to exempt health practitioners providing nutrition services without a Dietitian License. Together they brought attention to 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. Ultimately, the author withdrew the bill.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2001 Safe Harbor Exemption Law: 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.

2005 safe harbor exemption from naturopathic doctor registration requirements.

Connecticut: Connecticut introduced House Bill No. 5117, “An Act Concerning Genetically-Engineered Foods”, on February 16, 2012 to require the labeling of foods containing and produced with genetically modified organisms (GMOs). H.B. 5117 was favorably reported and passed out of the Joint House and Senate Environmental Committee on March 21, 2012 and the Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis on April 10, 2012 and it is now on the House Calendar. H.B. 5117 would place the burden of disclosure on the manufacturers using the ingredients of concern by requiring a label for GMO-containing foods. Currently no state or federal law requires the labeling of foods containing or produced with GMOs. Without such disclosures mandated by law, manufacturers may voluntarily inform consumers of products containing GMOs but most choose not to do so. To alleviate the void in information, consumer-friendly manufacturers and independent organizations have assumed the burden of labeling products without GMOs as “GMO-free”.

Colorado: Congratulations Colorado for the defeat of the monopolistic HB1060 that would have licensed Dietitians and made criminal the practice of nutritionists, health coaches and many other natural health care practitioners. HB 1060 was successfully blocked and tabled by Colorado Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation, Colorado Springs Citizens for Health

Freedom, National Health Freedom Action, Colorado Coalition for Natural Health, and many other Colorado citizen organizations and activists in February 2012. A Health Freedom bill for Coloradoans was introduced in 2007 and 2010, when it was postponed indefinitely in Committee on April 5, 2010. The Colorado bill is again ready for sponsorship and health freedom advocates continue to work towards reintroduction of a health freedom bill in the 2012-2013 session.

Delaware:

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2007 Safe Harbor Exemption clause is in the DE Dietitian law for persons giving nutritional advice without being 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: Since 2004 Florida Health Freedom Coalition (an educational non-profit organization) and its sister organization Florida Health Freedom Action, a lobbying organization, have worked hard to promote safe harbor legislation but have not yet passed their bill. NHFA remains supportive of their efforts and looks forward to helping them strategize for the 2012-2013 session.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2003 Governor's Proclamation on Health Freedom supports the right of unlicensed practitioners to practice and consumers to have access to those practitioners. (See Proclamation at:

<http://www.nationalhealthfreedom.org/InfoCenter/reports/proclamation.pdf>)

Hawaii: Hawaii introduced H.B. 2570, Licensing Dietitians, on January 26, 2012. H.B. 2570 was heard in the House Committee on Health on January 13, 2012 and in the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce on February, 13, 2012. Opposition testimony was submitted by many unlicensed holistic and natural health care practitioners. The bill can no longer move in 2012 because it did not meet the Committee cross over deadline of March 17, 2012.

Representative Evans remains a strong advocate for health freedom 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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2010 Safe Harbor Exemption for unlicensed practitioners to the Naturopathic Physician Act.

1976 Oldest Safe Harbor Exemption law exempting 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: The 2011-2012 session in Illinois saw an opportunity to amend the restrictive Dietitian and Nutrition Services Act in Illinois in SB 2936, The Dietitian Nutrition Licensing bill. Illinois holistic health and health freedom advocates are still trying to defeat or amend SB 2936, a restrictive dietitian licensure bill. In March, 2012 a group supportive of professional nutritionists engaged in negotiations with the IL state licensure department, but the dietitians insist on a monopoly and exclusive use of the title "nutritionist".

Negotiations between the dietetic and nutrition camps that want licensing will take place over the summer to see if an agreement can be reached. Without an agreed upon bill, state licensure of dietitians and nutritionists could end January 1, 2013 unless one side has the power to force a bill through.

NHFA urges IL unlicensed practitioners to create their own voice and recommendations for SB 2936 language to represent regular citizens and unlicensed nutritional consultants and all other complementary and alternative health care practitioners who recommend nutritional advice. To that end, NHFA is in the process of supporting Illinois citizens to start a health freedom group in Illinois!

NHFA again attended the Chicago Health Freedom Expo in June 2012, sponsored by The Healthkeeper's Alliance, and enjoyed reconnecting with and meeting many health freedom activists while in attendance.

Indiana: HB 1137, a Dietitian Licensing bill, was introduced on January 9, 2012 but the bill is no longer active this session due to committee schedules. The bill repeals certification of dietitians and requires an individual who: (1) professes to be a licensed dietitian; (2) implies by words or letters that the individual is a licensed dietitian; or (3) engages in the practice of dietetics; to be licensed. NHFA is glad to report that HB 1137 did not make it out of committee by the last week of January, the date set by the Indiana legislature as the final date a bill must be heard in a committee in order to be able to move to the next chamber. Indiana is a strong natural health state including the presence of Healthkeepers Alliance, the sponsor of the Health Freedom Expos, and Trinity College.

Iowa: Iowa SB 3022 and HB 507, restrictive Naturopathic Physician Licensing bills, were introduced in Iowa on January 12, 2012, but thanks to the good work of Representative Muhlbauer and Patty 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 ultimately the bill did not move forward. NHFA testified in opposition to HB 507 at a hearing by the House State Government Subcommittee on January 26. The bills were passed out of the State Government Subcommittees of the Senate and the House but they were slowed down as Iowa legislators encouraged all parties at odds to come to agreement in the summer. No amendments have been attached yet to correct and properly exempt out unlicensed traditional naturopaths or complementary and alternative health care practitioners.

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 introduced a safe harbor exemption bill HF855, and also worked successfully on mercury free vaccine legislation and 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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update. 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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update. 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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

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: **Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.** There is no 2012 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*, were introduced and on June 13th, the Majority "ought not to pass" report was accepted and the bill died. Maine is interested in building a larger freedom group now to work for the future.

Maryland: Maryland HB 180, a Naturopathic Physician Licensing bill, was introduced on January 20, 2012. The Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee heard SB 180 on January 25, 2012 and issued a "Favorable Report with Amendments" on March 19, 2012. No action has been taken in the house and health freedom activists in Maryland do not think it will move. There are no exemptions in it to cover natural health practitioners or traditional naturopaths and Paige, a Maryland attorney, who worked to get a safe harbor bill passed two years ago in Maryland, is keeping her eyes and ears open for any movement on the bill.

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. They did not reintroduce the bill in 2011 nor yet in 2012 because the health freedom leaders had other commitments and one of the members of their advocate team became very ill. However, they are very committed to the continued movement for health freedom in Maryland and we look forward to the reintroduction of their bill.

Massachusetts: **Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.** Regarding safe harbor laws for unlicensed practitioners, there is no change in 2012. Massachusetts Health Freedom Coalition promoted the introduction of a health freedom bill in 2009, MA bill filing number 111409, 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..."*. Massachusetts leaders are soliciting for new memberships.

Michigan: Michigan House Bill No. 4789, the "Michigan Consumer Health Freedom Law", introduced on June 16, 2011, is still alive in 2012. Michigan Natural Health Coalition and Michigan health freedom advocates are working hard to garner enough support for H.B. 4789 to get it a public hearing. The bill will protect access to complementary and alternative practitioners, such as nutritional consultants, homeopaths and traditional naturopaths, who abide by the bill's guidelines. Michigan Natural Health Coalition successfully blocked a restrictive Naturopathic Licensing bill from being submitted in 2011. Michigan is the home of Reiki International (www.reiki.org) and its founder and Director, William Lee Rand, Reiki Master. In the 2006-2007 session, a very restrictive Dietitian licensing bill, S403, passed without adequate exemptions for unlicensed nutrition providers. NHFA supported a safe harbor amendment to correct the inadequacy, but the amendment was ultimately rejected. NHFA supports the advocates who are currently working to correct that law.

Michigan's Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) recommends the occupation of Dietetics and Nutrition be deregulated, and the Dietetics and Nutrition Licensing Board be eliminated! The ORR released its recommendations in June 2012, in a report entitled "Recommendations Regarding Occupational Licensing" (Feb. 2012). The ORR's stated rationale for its recommendation is that, "The regulation of dietitians and nutritionists does not provide a clear public health and safety benefit." The recommendations will now go to the Governor to select which recommendations will be included in a bill to be sent to the legislature for an up or down, only, vote.

Minnesota: In 2012 Minnesota Natural Health - Legal Reform Project continued working on the passage of HF 255/SF 147, a "raw milk delivery" bill, with other raw milk advocates, such as the Food Freedom Project and National Health Freedom Action. Originally introduced in 2011, HF 255/SF 147, 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. Minnesota unfortunately continues to experience raids on unpasteurized product producers and delivery people. The health freedom community mobilized to protect their access to wholesome foods and prevent injustice to their farmers.

The House heard the bill in an informational committee hearing with packed hearing rooms on May 5, 2011 and on April 4, 2012, the Senate sponsor introduced a raw milk access amendment to the Agricultural Omnibus bill on the floor of the Senate.

The amendment clarified Minnesota's Constitutional *right to peddle products of the farm or garden without a license therefor* while protecting delivery of raw milk that is sold in a direct farm-to-consumer transaction. Sadly, the Senate voted against the amendment 32 to 26. Minnesota Natural Health – Legal Reform Project, Food Freedom Project and National Health Freedom Action continue to work side by side to promote legislation that will protect the delivery of raw milk products by farmers to their private customers in a direct farm-to-consumer contract.

Minnesota Natural Health - Legal Reform Project (MNH-LRP), 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, including the need for their Expanded Practices Act. The Expanded Practices Act is another ground-breaking project of MNH-LRP and NHFA which would protect holistic doctors and also exempt parents out of child abuse allegations for refusing chemotherapy and radiation cancer treatments for their children. Relationships with potential sponsors in both the House and the Senate look hopeful for successful introduction of the bill in 2012.

2012 Minnesota also saw the introduction of a GMO-labeling bill. Representative Karen Clark (DFL-62A) authored HF 2808, a bill requiring Genetically Engineered Food Labeling in early March. It was denied a committee hearing in the House Agriculture Committee. On March 30, Rep. Clark offered a stripped down amendment to the House Omnibus Agriculture Bill that would have created a study committee of all stakeholders. The genetically engineered food labeling study committee would have reported their recommendations back to the 2014 legislature. The amendment was supported by MN Commissioner of Agriculture, Dave Fredrickson. A Roll Call vote was called on the House floor and the amendment was voted down 81-44. The Senate companion bill, SF 2563, also did not pass this session.

2010 MN HF1724, a restrictive Naturopathic Medicine Registration bill was amended to protect the right unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioners to practice under MN146A. The bill, with the protective amendment passed.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

1999 Safe Harbor Exemption bill, the famous MN146A Minnesota Complementary and Alternative Health Freedom of Access Act of 1999!

Missouri: 2012 saw the introduction of three bills related to GMO-Labeling, H.B. 984, introduced by Representative Tim Meadows, H.B. 2088, and H.B. 1013 both introduced by Representative Leonard Hughes IV, Unfortunately none will continue to move this session. Missouri does not have a health freedom group but interested citizens are encouraged to reach out to NHFA so we can help them to do so in the near future.

Montana: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update. 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 23, 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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update. In 2011 Nevada introduced AB289, a Dietician licensing bill, which 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 SB412, the Complementary Integrative Medicine (CIM) Licensing bill, 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 2012 Jim Jenks, Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation Coordinator in Nevada, is preparing to resume his efforts to move SB296, which is a Consumer Choice Protection bill, protecting consumer access to traditional and unlicensed natural health care practitioners and which National Health Freedom Action assisted in the drafting of. In 2009, Jim Jenks worked single-handedly to move SB 296 forward in the Nevada legislature and he was up against opposing medical interests. . .

Also in 2009, Nevada introduced SB 69, a bill regulating all unlicensed practitioners under an Integrative Medical Board. Health freedom advocates successfully opposed the bill and it did not move.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2011 Safe Harbor Exemption for unlicensed practitioners successfully added to AB289, a Dietician licensing bill

New Hampshire: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update. 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 law; see HB 908, a bill to regulate all bodywork and Reiki. Thanks to them for their leadership role in the grassroots efforts.

New Jersey: New Jersey SB 833, a Dietitian/Nutrition Licensing bill, is a restrictive, RD-centric bill, introduced into the Senate on January 10, 2012. S.B. 833 includes a scope of practice defined as “dietetics/nutrition”, which includes: MNT, nutrition assessment, diagnosis, intervention, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition care plans, nutrition support (including parenteral and enteral nutrition, nutritional counseling and education, nutrition care standards and systems), and requires completion of the ADA exam (even by holders of PHDs in nutrition) in order to qualify for licensure. Prior to the introduction of SB 833, the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists worked with NJDA to come to a handshake agreement to include the CNS exam but it is nowhere mentioned in the bill. Similar monopolistic licensure bills containing no proper exemptions for unlicensed practitioners were introduced in NJ during previous legislative sessions to no success, thanks to the efforts of health freedom advocates. 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 Jersey introduced Senate Bill No. 1367 to Label GMO Foods in the Senate on February 6, 2012 and it was referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. The committee is not expected to meet again until May and is not likely to discuss substantive issues until budgeting issues have been resolved. NHFA encourages NJ health freedom advocates to use the interim time to contact legislators to tell them to support the bill when it is heard.

New Mexico: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2009 Safe Harbor Exemption Law, New Mexico HB664 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 2012 two restrictive licensing bills originally introduced in New York in 2011 have been the focus of NY health freedom advocates. 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.

S.B. 3556 and A.B. 5666, which would jeopardize the right to speak freely about nutrients, were referred to legislative committees in both the New York Senate and the Assembly. S.B. 3556 passed the Higher Education Committee and the Finance committee but failed to advance in the New York Senate Rules Committee. It was assigned to go back to the Senate Higher Education Committee for 2012 session on January 4, 2012 and no further action has been taken. A.B. 5666 was assigned to the New York Assembly Higher Education Committee in 2011 but it failed to advance. It has now been referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee for the 2012 session. The Naturopathic Doctor licensing bill, S1803/A1937, passed out of the Senate and was delivered to the assembly on June 22, 2011. The bill died in the Assembly and was returned to the Senate and referred to the Senate Higher Education Committee on January 4, 2012.

NHFA joined forces with talented NY leaders and health care practitioners at the end of 2011 to discuss a future for safe harbor health freedom legislation in NY in light of the historical perspective about bills that had been introduced by freedom advocates before and about what the head of the health committee indicated that he would need to move a bill.

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 Health Freedom Coalition does not currently have an active health freedom bill but North Carolina activists will consider re-filing their Consumer Health Freedom Act by January 2013 for introduction into the 2013 legislative session. Originally introduced in the 2009 session, the Consumer Health Freedom Act would protect North Carolina's unlicensed traditional practitioners from charges of practicing medicine without a license. If their health freedom bill is not filed next January, it cannot be filed in North Carolina for another four years.

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.

North Carolina Representative Glen Bradley introduced H.B. 446, requiring GMO-Labeling, on March 23, 2011. HB 446 "requires labeling of food and milk products sold in [North Carolina] that are or that contain genetically modified food and or milk and milk products from animals that have received Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (Rbgh)."

Ohio: Ohio House Bill 259, the "Consumer Health Freedom Bill", is moving in 2012! Originally introduced on June 14, 2011, HB 259 protects consumer access to homeopaths, traditional naturopaths, nutritional consultants, and many other natural health and complementary and alternative practitioners providing services that do not rise to the level of concern requiring state licensure. H.B. 259 was heard in the Committee on Health and Aging on September 21, 2011 and again on March 28, 2012 and passed out of the committee, was sent to the House Floor where it passed on May 24, 2012 by a vote of 66 to 29, and is now on its way to the Senate.

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: HB 2630 was introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature on February 6, 2012, to amend OK Statutes §59-492: "Designation of physicians - Employment by hospitals - Practice of medicine defined - Services rendered by trained assistants - Persons practicing nonallopathic healing". HB 2630 is attempting to remove the subdivision that currently states: "Nothing in the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act shall prohibit services rendered by any person not licensed by the Board and practicing any nonallopathic healing practice." Removing this language is a threat to the security of unlicensed health care practitioners in the state of Oklahoma and NHFA is in contact with OK health freedom activists and have been told the bill did not make committee deadlines and is not moving.. The bill does NOT seek to amend the provision that provides that: "Nothing in the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act shall be

construed to affect or give jurisdiction to the Board over any person other than medical doctors or persons holding themselves out as medical doctors".

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

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: Quiet in 2012...No activity since June 2011 NHFA Update.

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 is excited to announce that Pennsylvania activists launched the Pennsylvania Natural Health Freedom Coalition in 2012. Pennsylvania leaders are preparing to introduce a safe harbor exemption bill in January 2013, and NHFA provided them with draft language.

Unfortunately, the 2011-2012 session also saw the introduction of Pennsylvania H.B. 1717, a monopolistic Naturopathic Physician Practice Act mandating licensure of natural health practices with no exemptions for unlicensed traditional naturopaths or complementary and alternative health care practitioners. H.B. 1717 was heard in the Committee on Professional Licensure. H.B. 1717 would criminalize practicing anything within the proposed definition of "naturopathic medicine", regardless of whether it poses a risk of harm to the public. The definition is so broad that it includes many natural therapies such as "...hydrotherapy, topical medicines, foods, food extracts, vitamins, amino acids, minerals, enzymes, dietary supplements, ..., homeopathic remedies and plant substances...".

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. 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 House Bill No. 7494 mandates labeling of GMO foods and remains alive this session.

Introduced on February 9, 2012, HB 7494 was referred to the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee which recommended the bill be held for further study March 14, 2012. HB 7494 would require that food and food products derived from or containing genetically modified organisms be labeled as such by the manufacturer, retailer or other person before putting it on the market for sale in RI.

Note - Enacted Health Freedom Laws:

2000 Safe Harbor Exemption law. Rhode Island 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.

South Dakota: South Dakota Health Freedom Advocates defeated a dangerously restrictive and extensive licensing bill for complementary health care professions, H.B. 1171, on February 15, 2012! The bill would have negatively impacted access to all of natural health in South Dakota. The bill was heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee and was tabled by a vote of 6 to 0. National Health Freedom Action assisted South Dakotans for Health Freedom in these efforts, preparing point-documents detailing the reasons for opposing the bill and helping prepare opposition strategies in collaboration with those who were able lobby against the bill in Pierre. Great job South Dakota!

Efforts to introduce a safe harbor bill for natural health care in South Dakota began in 2012 with NHFA providing draft language for such a bill to South Dakota Senator Holien. We look forward to future collaboration with South Dakota on this effort.

Tennessee: Representative Towns introduced H.B. 3678 on February 2, 2011 to require GMO-Labeling of foods. The bill was assigned to House Agriculture Subcommittee but is no longer alive this session. Representative Towns offered this bill in past sessions, i.e., HB1928 introduced on March 23, 2011, but it never moved due to lack of a senate sponsor; therefore NHFA urges health freedom advocates to encourage their representatives in the Senate to work with Representative Towns.

Texas: Texas legislature is currently in an "Off" session in 2012. A TX Health Freedom bill is being considered for reintroduction in 2013.

In 2007, Texas SB1209 was introduced to license Dietitians. Health Freedom advocates successfully opposed and defeated the bill.

Vermont: House Bill No. 722, mandating labeling of GMO foods was introduced February 1, 2012. H.B. 722, grants consumers the right to know of the presence of GMOs in their food. On March 27, 2012, when the House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing on the bill, Vermont health freedom advocates filled the committee hearing room in support of the bill and 112 people testified by the end of the evening. Now, they anxiously await a vote on H.B. 722. Committee Chair Carolyn Partridge, D-Windham, said after the hearing that the committee will be discussing the bill and she expects it to pass in some form. She thinks it will need examination by the Judiciary committee next.

Vermont also introduced House Bill No. 733, sponsored by Representative Eldred French in 2012. H.B. 733 establishes a cause of action in trespass against the manufacturer of a genetically engineered seed or genetically engineered plant part when such seed or plant part enters the property of a person engaged in an agricultural activity and causes damages and provides that indemnification clauses in seed contracts are against public policy and are void and unenforceable.

Virginia: Virginians for Health Freedom defeated a restrictive Dietitian Licensing bill, H.B. 345, on February 2, 2012. The bill was heard in the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and was tabled until 2013! National Health Freedom Action assisted Virginians for Health Freedom in these efforts, preparing point-documents detailing the reasons for opposing the bill and helping prepare opposition testimony for those who were able to testify. Great job Virginia!

Also in 2012, Virginians for Health Freedom successfully amended HB 543, a Massage Licensing bill, to add a health freedom safe harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners. H.B. 543 was introduced on January 12, 2012 to change Virginia from a certification state where the title of "certified Massage therapist" is protected by criminal charges to a licensure state where not only will there be violations for use of title but there would be violations for "practice" as well. We are grateful to Virginia activists that the version of HB 543, adopted April 18, 2012, would have protected unlicensed practitioners. Ultimately the Governor vetoed the bill and stripped it of any language pertaining to massage work.

Virginia HB2487 was introduced and opposed in 2011. It was a bill to license Naturopathic Doctors introduced by Del. Kilgore on behalf of a small group of naturopaths from naturopathic medicine schools who wanted licensure. The bill defined the 'Practice of Naturopathy' very broadly including most of natural health and would have made it a criminal charge to practice without a license with very limited exceptions. Now the state of Virginia is doing a study to determine whether Naturopathic Doctors should be licensed. A public hearing on the study is scheduled for Aug. 20th, 2012.

Citizen lobbyists have worked very hard to lay the ground work for introducing a health freedom bill there. They introduced HB1744, a health freedom safe harbor exemption bill, in 2009 and we're eager to support them in doing so again in 2012 and 2013.

Virginia Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel introduced S.B. 606 on January 19, 2012 in order to require that genetically-engineered food be labeled and provide penalties for those who fail to inform consumers of the presence of GMOs. We look forward to the introduction of another GMO-Labeling bill next session.

Washington: Senator Chase and Representative Condotta introduced GMO-Labeling bills, S.B. 6298 /H.B. 2637, respectively, to require the labeling of foods containing genetically engineered material. SB 6298 had a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water & Rural Economic Development on January 26, 2012 and HB 2637 had a public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources on January 27, 2012. Washington health freedom activists testified in favor of the bill in each chamber. Unfortunately, the bills did not move out of committee and they were reintroduced and retained in present status on April 11, 2012 but hopefully they'll move further next session.

Washington activists who were previously working in support of a safe harbor bill for natural health practitioners were 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 four years. In response to the investigations, activists have formed organizations with the goal of changing the laws.

In 2009, the WA Dept. of Health Sunrise Review held a hearing concerning registration of colon hydro therapists, Health Freedom advocates opposed registration and, ultimately, no regulation went forward.

West Virginia: West Virginia introduced HB 4045, a restrictive Dietitian Licensing Bill, on January 12, 2012 to convert the current title act into a practice act. Although West Virginia already had an exemption for those persons giving out nutrition information on food, food materials or dietary supplements or engaging in explanation to customers about food, food materials or dietary supplements in connection with the marketing and distribution of those products, it was not adequate for nutrition professionals and other unlicensed practitioners. HB 4045 was passed with amendments out of the House Government Organization committee on January 12, 2012 and sent to the House Judiciary Committee. Fortunately, legislators heard from a lot of health freedom activists on the bill and despite the successful negotiation of an amendment to include nutrition professionals under the licensing scheme, NHFA is grateful to report that the bill is no longer moving in West Virginia.

West Virginia House Bill No. 2180, introduced by Representative Mike Manypenny in 2012, creates the Genetically Engineered Crop and Animal Farmer Protection Act. The Act requires genetically engineered seeds to be so labeled and establishes measures to be taken to avoid cross pollination of genetically engineered plants and seeds. HB 2180 would further protect organic farmers and consumers by providing for civil and citizen suits against violators of the Act. The bill was sent to the House Agriculture Committee on 01/11/12 and is no longer moving this session.

Wisconsin: Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition is working hard to move forward S.B. 280, the "Wisconsin Consumer Choice and Wellness Legislation" introduced November 4, 2011 and planning to be reintroduced in 2013. This bill, like Ohio's and Michigan's, will protect consumer access to complementary and alternative health care practitioners practicing within the parameters of the bill. Wisconsin advocates continue to work to block restrictive dietitian licensure bills and look forward to enactment of S.B. 280 to protect them from such monopolistic legislation.

From 2008 to 2010 they successfully defeated very restrictive Dietitian Licensing bills (AB440 and S115, SB 155, and SB394, respectively) 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.

On March 2, 2012, activists from across the country rallied in Wisconsin around a Wisconsin Dairy Farmer, Vernon Hershberger, who is facing criminal charges from the State of Wisconsin relating to production and distribution of milk and other foods. Hershberger functions under a model that is a contractual arrangement with consumer leaseholders and does not consider himself to be involved in "commerce". Key leaders came to the rally including: Michael Schmidt, Canadian organic

farmer, who ended a 36 day hunger fast in October 2011, promoting freedom to access raw milk; David Gumpert, author of the “Raw Milk Revolution”; Mel Olson, a co-founder of Raw Milk Food Freedom Riders; and many other strong health freedom advocates.