



**NHFA**  
**Annual**  
**Report**  
**2014**

*Reforming  
Health Laws to  
Protect Access  
and  
Freedom of Choice*

*\*\*\**

*Truthful Information  
Products  
Holistic Practitioners  
Health Choices*



## A Letter from the President

*Jerri Johnson*

July, 2015

Dear Health Freedom friends:

I am honored and excited to become the President of National Health Freedom Action! I have been an active leader in NHFA's work for health freedom since the group was founded in 2000. Ah yes – I remember it well! We had just finished working at the Minnesota state capitol, passing a ground-breaking new law that ensured citizen access to holistic healers in Minnesota.

The reason why we had worked so hard to pass that law was because Minnesota, like many states we were soon to find out, had a medical practice act that said that anyone who was helping people get well in any way, and wasn't licensed as a medical doctor or otherwise, was practicing medicine without a license. That meant that a whole host of wonderful healers, including myself as a homeopath, along with herbalists and nutrition counselors, and many others, were at risk for prosecution. So the bill we passed gave holistic practitioners an exemption so they can legally practice, provided that they give disclosure to their clients of their education and training, and comply with certain other requirements.

After we passed that bill, we started getting calls from all over the country, asking us to help them do the same thing in their state (because every single state has a similar medical practice act). We knew that the need was great! And we knew that we had a great solution. Since our founding, NHFA has worked with citizen health freedom groups in over 30 states, and today we have nine states with some form of safe harbor laws. And we are working with many more states in process.

But our founding NHFA vision was even broader than practitioner issues, leading us into work in many other areas of health freedom, both state and national. Yes, we want you to be able to go the practitioner you choose. But we also want you to be completely in charge of all your health care decisions, including whether to have your children receive vaccines, or modify their vaccine schedule. We want you to have truthful information about the benefits of dietary supplements, and whether the food you buy has been genetically modified or not. We want you to be able to access raw milk if that is your desire. In short, we want you to have the right to make your own health care choices that you feel are best for you and your family.

NHFA, as a lobbying group, works hand in hand with NHFC (National Health Freedom Coalition) an educational group, to open up choices in health care. This is a sacred right that we hold near and dear. It is what gets us up in the morning and energizes us to do the work we do for health freedom. My pledge to you is to get up every morning with the question on my mind: what can I do today to strengthen health freedoms for all of us?

We thank you so much for your support and for your participation in this work. It takes all of us to make change happen, but change is happening!

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerri Johnson".

Jerri Johnson  
President, National Health Freedom Action

# Our Core Work

## Responding to the Public

**NHFA responds daily to calls from around the country.** Calls come from citizens, practitioners, attorneys, lobbyists, and manufacturers who are worried about the impacts of losing access to desired health care options. Citizens may call because they want access to the practitioners they have chosen. They may want truthful information, such as the labeling of GMO foods. They may want exemptions from vaccine requirements.

## Lobbying and Educating Citizens About How to Actively Participate In the Political Process

**NHFA educates citizens by phone, emails and in-person meetings on how to lobby their solutions to get what they need. We coach grassroots activists on how to effectively**

**participate in the political process** by providing advocacy and lobbying training sessions, by participating in strategizing, researching laws and drafting solutions, and walking side by side with citizens. NHFA lobbies, and testifies in support of their efforts. We often help citizens in state groups from the very beginning stages of when they are incorporating, all the way through to their active stages, and to success in their projects to promote health freedom.

## Providing Alerts

**Consumers are daily bombarded with information about health freedom issues,** and many look to NHFA for timely analysis on how a particular event or situation will infringe on their health freedoms. We provide point papers to assist in understanding issues, and alerts for citizens to take action.

## Building Collaboration in the Health Freedom Community

**NHFA has long held the belief that if we work together we will have a stronger voice for health freedom.** We work closely with our sister educational organization, National Health Freedom Coalition, as well as leaders across the country to promote changes that protect health freedom. We are daily in touch with leaders in small or large group conversations, about key strategies and health freedom issues.

## Global Health Freedom

**NHFA is committed to assessing health freedom issues from a global perspective when time permits. As the world changes and globalization takes hold there are many health freedom issues impacting consumer options in health care.** The proliferation of childhood vaccines in countries across the world, and the vaccine safety issues manifesting is just one example of how the people of the planet must all work together to protect the integrity of individual choice in the context of public needs. Another example of global impact on health freedom is the passage of the Codex Guidelines for Vitamins and Minerals where the assumption that dietary supplements are dangerous drug-like products has manifested and transformed into an international trade guideline. NHFC has attended Codex meetings in Geneva and Rome and stays in contact with the US NGO representing US consumers at Codex, National Health Federation, in order to help strengthen the voice of health freedom internationally.

## NHFA TEAM

**JUDY BUROKER**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**LEO CASHMAN**  
*Accountant*

**DIANE MILLER JD**  
*Director of Law and Public Policy*

**ANNE TENNER JD**  
*Assistant Attorney*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**BRUCE CURTIS**  
*Vice President*

**LARRY HANUS DDS**  
*Iowa Holistic Dentistry*

**ANTHONY STEPHAN**  
*TrueHope Inc.*

**BONITA YODER JD**

**National Health Freedom Action worked this year to ensure access to the holistic practitioners, products, and information for all citizens across the country. We collaborated with health freedom organizations, and provided strategy coaching, drafting of bills, amendments, and testifying at hearings.**

### **Michigan repealed licensure for dietitians**

In 2006, NHFA supported the efforts of Michigan consumers opposing a severely restrictive Dietitian licensing bill, SB403. But sadly, Michigan passed the bill and it became law. The new law allowed only licensed dietitians to give nutritional advice, and made it illegal for most non-RDs to provide meaningful nutrition counseling. But this year we have great news! We supported with our Action Alerts, those activists working in Michigan to repeal that licensing law, including the Michigan Nutrition Association led by Judy Stone. And the law was repealed! We are thrilled that the legislature repealed this law, setting a great precedent for the rest of the country! NHFA believes that all people should be free to provide advice and



counsel on ways people can use nutrition to be healthy. The repeal of the Michigan Dietitian Law is a testimony to the hard work of Michigan activists, and the increasing awareness of the importance of being able to access the practitioners of our choice.

### **NHFA calls for labeling of GMO's**

NHFA tracked 80 legislative bills introduced across the country, calling for the labeling of GMO's (genetically modified organisms). NHFA sent out action alerts giving consumers a convenient opportunity to email their state legislators. Thousands of consumers took action on NHFA alerts. The great news is that **Vermont** made history when it passed Vermont House Bill112, requiring labeling of GMOs, and forbidding labeling GMO-contaminated foods as "natural". We salute the Right to Know GMOs Coalition, including Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center; Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Vermont; Rural Vermont; and Vermont Public Interest Research Group. **Oregon and Colorado** both made valiant efforts to require labeling in their states, although both measures fell short. NHFA believes that consumers have the right to know whether the foods they are purchasing have been genetically modified or not. That means we need to build a huge and ever-growing grassroots presence that stands for food freedom - the right to grow, and to access, foods that are nourishing and safe.

### **NHFA drafts formal comments on Hawaii proposal to license Herbal Therapists**

In Hawaii, a proposal was made to study whether herbalists should be required to be state licensed. National Health Freedom Action opposed this idea, and submitted formal comments to the study agency, arguing that licensure would unnecessarily restrict many HI practitioners from offering herbal remedies to their clients. Requiring licensure, and a particular government-mandated course of education for herbal licensure, would jeopardize consumer access to many wonderful traditional herbalists, wellness consultants, health coaches, and many other holistic practitioners practicing in the public domain. We were gratified that ultimately, the study agency submitted their recommendation to the legislature that herbal therapists not be licensed, because "Proponents of regulation could not provide evidence that herbal therapy presents a clear and present danger to consumers", and "regulation of herbal therapists could artificially increase the costs of herbal therapy to consumers."

## Protecting Access to Natural Health Practitioners

In many states, holistic practitioners are unable to legally practice because restrictive licensure laws make them vulnerable to charges of practicing medicine without a license, or if they are already licensed, vulnerable to charges of practicing outside of the prevailing and accepted standards of care. That's why National Health Freedom Action steps up to change the outdated laws and public policies that put so many practitioners at risk.

**Groups in many states are working toward passage of a health freedom bill to protect access to traditional natural health care practitioners.** In Nevada, health freedom activists have resumed efforts to move a Consumer Choice Protection bill. **Massachusetts Health Freedom Action** is working with a lobbying firm to introduce a health freedom bill. **Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition** continues to work toward moving their Wisconsin Consumer Choice and Wellness legislation. In Illinois, **Illinois Citizens for Health Freedom** and **Illinois Sunshine Health Freedom Coalition** are eager to get a health freedom bill introduced. We were challenged in 2014 to witness **Maryland's** Naturopathic Medicine Licensing bill pass. This bill had no exemptions for unlicensed traditional naturopaths, herbalists, homeopaths, or other natural health practitioners. Many natural health practitioners in Maryland are now in jeopardy of prosecution for practicing naturopathy without a license. Citizens will now need to step forward to help get an exemption to this new restrictive law passed in Maryland.



Anne Tenner, NHFA Assistant Attorney, and Jerri Johnson, NHFA Board President, attend the Sacred Light of Liberty gathering hosted by Emord Associates in Maryland.

### Reiki practitioners practicing Reiki Without a license

In New Jersey, the **Natural Healing Alliance** emerged this year in response to notifications to Reiki practitioners that they could no longer practice Reiki without a massage license. NHFA is supporting the efforts of this group to amend the NJ Massage and

Bodywork Licensing Act, to protect energy and light-touch practitioners.

**There are now nine states that have some form of Safe Harbor laws!** These laws protect the ability of herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and many other practitioners to practice without fear of criminal or civil charges for the unlicensed practice of a regulated health care profession. **NHFA is committed to taking these victories to the rest of the country to ensure that holistic healing is accessible to all!**

### Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation Supports Health Freedom Laws

**Diane Miller had the honor of speaking to supporters of the Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation (SHFF)** at the Nature's Sunshine Products Convention in Cincinnati Ohio. SHFF is an avid supporter of laws that protect consumer access to herbalists, traditional naturopaths, and many other natural health care practitioners. Diane provided a workshop to educate citizens about the laws that impact practitioners and discuss important health freedom issues throughout the country.



## NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

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### *Board of Directors*

Bruce Curtis  
Larry Hanus  
Jerri Johnson  
Anthony Stephan  
Bonita Yoder

### Financial Statements for 2014

#### Statement of Revenue and Expense

##### REVENUE:

Grants	118486
Contributions	5962
Memberships	260
Misc Revenue	2
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>124710</b>

##### EXPENSE:

Wages	101040
Payroll taxes & benefits	8072
Contracted services	1580
Supplies and merchant fees	975
Postage, copying and printing	663
Telephone	1723
Rent and utilities	4895
Equipment maintenance & repair	50
Action alert & online expense	2855
Travel & transportation	1464
Lodging and food	997
Insurance	161
Direct lobbying costs	200
Filing fees and miscellaneous expense	54
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>124729</b>

**NET, REVENUE OVER EXPENSE** **-19**

#### Balance Sheet – December 31, 2014

##### ASSETS:

Cash	14191
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14191</b>

##### LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	9760
Payroll taxes payable	1592
Loans and miscellaneous payables	3863
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>15215</b>

##### NET ASSETS:

Program restricted net assets	8874
Unrestricted net assets	-9898
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-1024</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **14191**

#### *Our United Vision*

*A healthy nation, with empowered people,  
making informed health care decisions.*

# National Health Freedom Action gratefully acknowledges those whose gifts support our work, and our health freedoms.

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

## \$100,000 and above

Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation

## \$10,000 to \$99,999

Now Foods, Inc.

## \$1000 to \$9999

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## Mission Statement of National Health Freedom Action

To ensure that the people of this nation have access to the broad domain of healing and health care information and services, to ensure and protect the right of practitioners of the healing arts to practice, and to work to educate the public, promote health and well-being, conduct surveys and research, and participate in legislative, regulatory, legal, or public policy-reform and lobbying in order to accomplish the goal of health freedom.



# **National Health Freedom Action**

**A 501(c)4 non-profit advocacy organization**  
**"promoting freedom of access to health care"**

**Our Vision:** *A healthy nation, with empowered people, making informed health care decisions.*

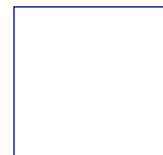
**Our Mission:** *To ensure that the people of this nation have access to the broad domain of healing and health care information and services, to ensure the right of practitioners of the healing arts to practice, and to educate the public, promote health and well-being, conduct surveys and research, and participate in legislative, regulatory, legal, or public policy-reform and lobbying to accomplish the goal of health freedom.*

***Working nationally, internationally, and statewide to ensure your  
Health Freedom!***

***Join us and help us ensure your health care choices.***  
***[www.nationalhealthfreedom.org](http://www.nationalhealthfreedom.org)***

## **National Health Freedom Action**

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