

NHFA 2016 Annual Report



NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM
ACTION

“NHFA's help has meant everything for our success in Virginia. Diane Miller helps us understand the language of the bills. The role that NHFA plays has been huge in giving us the support we need to fight these bills.”

- Becky Hanks, Virginians for Health Freedom

Letter from the President

Jerri Johnson



Dear Health Freedom Friends:

It was 1995 when a Minnesota naturopath was charged with “the practice of medicine without a license”. And a Minnesota holistic doctor and a holistic dentist were in trouble with their licensing boards for using holistic approaches with their patients. A huge Minnesota consumer movement arose, demanding that the laws restricting holistic practitioners be changed. Five years later, after we passed a ground-breaking statute that gave many unlicensed practitioners an exemption from the medical practice act, we received calls from all over the country: “Can you come to our state to help us accomplish the same thing?” That was when National Health Freedom Action was founded.

Today, there are safe harbor laws of some sort in ten states, protecting consumer access to practitioners of countless modalities that do not pose a serious risk of harm. But healing practitioners in other states are still being charged with practicing medicine without a license. Or maybe practicing dietetics without a license, or naturopathy without a license, or massage therapy without a license. Healing therapies that should be in the public domain get engulfed in turf battles that give one particular group of practitioners, with a particular education, the exclusive right to offer those healing methods. **NHFA is there to mobilize** folks to stop bad bills, or, even better, to create safe harbor legislation that gives practitioners exemptions to practice legally. NHFA’s goal is nothing less than having health freedom statutes in place in all fifty states!

NHFA has also jumped into the work to protect parents’ rights to decline vaccines for their children. Working alongside other consumer groups, we are helping to help stop bad bills that restrict exemption rights, and supporting new good bills that enhance those rights. NHFA also collaborates with other like-minded groups to support campaigns for GMO labeling, and access to raw milk. We want you to be able to make the choices you want to stay healthy!

P.S. If you would like to start a health freedom group in your state – contact us! We’re here to make that work.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerri Johnson".

Jerri Johnson

President, National Health Freedom Action

Our Core Work

Barriers to Health Freedom

Consumers have lost access to holistic health care practitioners.

Licensed Practitioners practicing holistic approaches can lose their licenses for practicing outside of prevailing and accepted standards of care. Other practitioners, such as herbalists, homeopaths, traditional naturopaths and energy workers, can be prosecuted for practicing medicine without a license. That's why NHFA steps up to change the outdated laws and public policies that put so many practitioners at risk.

Government regulations and laws are blocking people's fundamental rights. Parents are being required to vaccinate their children, or forced to approve chemotherapy treatments for them. Farmers selling fresh produce from the farm are being raided. Many people needing dental care must settle for toxic mercury fillings because of government subsidies. Consumers do not have labels to tell them whether a food is GMO produced.

NHFA is Working for Positive Change

NHFA is working in many states to support health freedom groups and their efforts to change the laws so that they reflect the principles of health freedom.

- **Right of Practitioners to Practice.** NHFA is working to pass safe harbor legislation, protecting the ability of herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, and many other practitioner to practice without fear of criminal or civil charges for the unlicensed practice of a regulated health care profession. There are now ten states that have some form of Safe Harbor laws! NHFA is committed to taking these victories to the rest of the country to ensure that holistic healing is accessible to all!
- **Right of parents to make health care decisions for their children.** Parents should have the right to decide what kind of health care they wish to use for their children. This includes decisions about vaccination, treatment for illness, and prevention. NHFA works with state health freedom groups to address infringements on parental rights.
- **Right of citizens to access safe, nutrient-dense foods.** Individuals should be able to produce and market organic foods, raw milk and other farm products. Foods produced with genetic engineering (GMO) should be clearly labeled. NHFA is active in working toward all of these freedoms.

Reforming health laws to protect access and freedom of choice

Our Work in 2016

In 2016 National Health Freedom Action worked in a number of states, responding to requests from citizens and groups wanting to protect health freedoms. NHFA offers guidance daily and works to ensure access to holistic practitioners, products, and information for all citizens. NHFA collaborated with

organizations, by **providing strategy coaching,**

drafting of bills, amendments, and

testifying at hearings. In short, NHFA helps state groups

mobilize to stop bad legislation that would interfere with health freedom, and to work toward passage of positive legislation.

NHFA opposed restrictive practitioner bills and promoted safe harbor bills.

NHFA is in touch with state activists across the country as they work to preserve access to natural health practitioners. A licensure bill introduced in Virginia would have required all body workers to become state licensed for massage therapy. But Virginians for Health Freedom, supported by NHFA, succeeded in exempting body workers from that requirement.

Other states introduced bills that would have infringed on the right of people to practice the healing arts, for example licensure bills for dieticians, that would have made it illegal for other people to give nutritional advice. NHFA helps oppose such bills.

Diane Miller gave the keynote address at the New England Women's herbal Conference, where she met with herbalists and provided a workshop educating herbalists about their rights to practice. The safe harbor laws protect herbalists and NHFA worked throughout the year building support in Ohio, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Iowa, Hawaii and Washington, working toward the goal of safe harbor protection for herbalists, homeopaths and many other practitioners.

NHFA: Working on Many Fronts for Health Freedom!



NHFA supported parents' rights to decide about vaccines

Over 100 dangerous bills were introduced in many states aiming to restrict parental rights to make decisions about vaccinations for their children. NHFA sent out multiple alerts to states, with links to legislators to send messages to oppose these bills. Many organizations collaborated on the opposition campaign and opposition to these bills in 2016 was very successful!

In California, where the passage of SB277 in 2015 took away religious and personal belief exemptions from parents, NHFA has been in close contact with health freedom groups and attorneys working from a variety of angles to restore parental choice.



Diane Miller and Jerri Johnson with VAXXED producers Polly Tommey and Del Bigtree and director Dr. Andy Wakefield at AutismOne

NHFA supported your right to know what's in your food

NHFA, working together with other health and food freedom organizations, such as Organic Consumers Association and Right to Know, supported labeling of GMO foods. Unfortunately, we lost that battle with the passage of the DARK ACT, the federal bill that blocks states' rights to make their own laws mandating GMO labeling.



Jerri Johnson rallied with OCA and MN Right to Know at Senators Klobuchar and Franken offices to support labeling of GMO's.

Our Team

Welcome to new board member, Sally Tamplin! Sally is a homeopath, and also accomplished in massage, reflexology, herbal remedies and flower essences. She has worked in Haiti as a volunteer after the earthquake there. Sally also helped people in Liberia stricken with Ebola, and helped to save lives with homeopathy. Sally is passionate about helping people become healthier and subsequently enjoying and getting the most out of life so they can share their talents for the greater good.



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NHFA Financial Statement for 2016

2016 Statement of Revenue & Expenses

Balance Sheet – December 31, 2016

REVENUE:		ASSETS:	
Contributions & grants	149929	Checking & cash on hand	59907
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>149929</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>59907</u>
EXPENSE:		LIABILITIES:	
Wages, payroll taxes, benefits	101404	Accounts payable	6809
Contracted services	3785	Payroll taxes payable	<u>3228</u>
Supplies, postage, printing	2158	TOTAL LIABILITIES	10037
Telephone & Zoom	1921	NET ASSETS:	
Rent, storage, utilities	4426	Program restricted net assets	14162
Action alert & online expense	5831	Unrestricted net assets	<u>35708</u>
Travel, transportation, food	756	TOTAL NET ASSETS	49870
Insurance, depreciation, misc.	563	TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>59907</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>120844</u>		
Net, Revenue over Expense	29085		

2016 Donors

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

\$100,000 and above

Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation

\$5000 - \$99,999

NOW Foods, Inc
Organic Consumers Fund
Anonymous (1)

\$1000 - \$4999

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Steve Johnson
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NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

A 501(c)4 non-profit advocacy organization

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.

Join us and help us ensure your health care choices.

www.nationalhealthfreedom.org/nhfa

National Health Freedom Action

PMB 218, 2136 Ford Parkway

St. Paul, MN 55116-1863

Phone 507-663-9018 Fax 507-663-9013

E-mail: info@nationalhealthfreedom.org

www.nationalhealthfreedom.org/nhfa

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