



NEWS RELEASE

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CCHF Uncovers New Evidence of Widespread Federal Control Over State Health Insurance Exchanges

Newly Created Federal System of Records Houses All Exchange Information and Shares it Broadly Within Federal Government, Says Leading Health Freedom Advocacy Group

Key Points:

- The Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF) has determined that personally identifiable information and qualified employer information will be stored in a newly mandated federal system of records that will be broadly accessible by many federal entities, including the IRS, DHS, SSA, HHS and others.
- Personally identifiable information will also be housed about 'marketplace assisters' such as navigators, agents, and brokers as well as their officers, employers, and contractors.
- **CCHF states that this federal system of records is further proof that state exchanges are federal exchanges with state names, and that citizens concerned about privacy should continue to keep their data out of the exchange system by not enrolling in exchange coverage.**

ST. PAUL, M.N. – The *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.com)* has discovered a newly created federal system of records. The system, called the "Health Insurance Exchange Program," was finalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 6, 2013 and will house much of each state's health insurance exchange information, including personally identifiable information, private health data, employment and insurance data, and qualified employer information in a single, federal records system. The federal warehousing of such data is further evidence of the federal nature of the exchanges; they do not offer private health plans in a public marketplace, they are effectively government-run health insurance.

In addition to housing private data, the federal government will allow nine types of broad "routine disclosures" of information within the federal records system. For example, disclosures can be made

to “another Federal agency or an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States” for fraud prevention. **CCHF** states that while fraud prevention may seem like a reasonable reason to disclose information, this private information is available to government agencies for other uses.

“As we at the CCHF have been advising individuals and states, these health insurance exchanges clearly have nothing to do with private enterprise and everything to do with government takeover and control of medical care,” said Twila Brase, co-founder and President of the CCHF. “This is a national exchange system and the federal government wants control over every ‘arm’ of it in every state. But by refusing to use the exchanges, private citizens can stop the flow of information into the federal government.”

According to CMS, the federal records system will collect and maintain information pertaining to citizen or immigration status, enrollment in other federally funded programs ranging from Medicare to the Peace Corps, incarceration or Indian status, enrollment in employer-sponsored coverage, exemption requests, employer information, veteran status, health status information, and financial information. The data collected spans a wide gamut and, if breached or shared incorrectly, has the potential to lead to identity theft, fraud, or other privacy issues. The **CCHF** states that all citizens should be prepared to maintain their own and their family’s good health through private means, such as payment for medical services outside of an exchange in order to prevent their information from being stored, analyzed and shared by the federal government.

“Individuals who are in a state with an exchange must refuse to use it, and encourage their family, friends, and neighbors to do the same,” concluded Brase. “Timing is critical and the well-funded exchange marketing machines are gearing up. People concerned about the issues posed by a federally managed health insurance system must be vocal and proactive to stop the exchange system while it is still possible to do so.”

The **Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom** provides extensive research and resources for individuals that want to better understand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – also known as PPACA – and the potential impact on medical care and insurance coverage. For more information, citizens can visit www.cchfreedom.org.

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Twila Brase is president and co-founder of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. She has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” The Council’s efforts have stopped government-issued treatment directives, added informed consent requirements for access to patient data and defeated a proposed Health Insurance Exchange. Brase’s daily radio commentary, Health Freedom Minute, is a 60-second radio address on pressing health care issues. She has been interviewed by CNN, Fox News, Minnesota Public Radio, NBC Nightly News, NBC’s Today Show, NPR, New York Public Radio, the Associated Press, Modern Healthcare, TIME, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Washington Times, among others.