

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

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CONTACT:

Karyn Price, Hamilton Strategies

kprice@hamiltonstrategies.com, 610-584-1096 (office), 215-858-1184 (mobile)

Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies

DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com, 215-815-7716 (mobile), 610-584-1096 (office)

As Candidates Debate Healthcare Issues, CCHF Predicts Patient Difficulty in Accessing Care

*Affordable Care Act Is Expected to Result in a Mass Exodus from the Medical
Field in the Next Four Years*

Key Facts:

- Candidates continue to debate vigorously over healthcare, particularly Medicare and the impacts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) law on the current program.
- As ACA moves forward, access to care is a critical issue that seems to be largely ignored.
- The **CCHF** predicts patient access to care will grow difficult within the next four years as a new study shows that the pool of available physicians is shrinking.

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Vice Presidential candidates came out swinging with regard to Medicare, each trying to declare their plan is more realistic and workable for American citizens. They debated whether the Medicare piggy bank had been raided to help pay for the President's Affordable Care Act law.

As the ACA continues to be implemented, patient privacy is one of the most oft-noted concerns as data is forced online, but the law's impact on patient access to care is critical. The ***Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)*** predicts, based on the results of a new study, that patients will have difficulty accessing medical care.

Based on a new, national survey commissioned by **The Physicians Foundation**, physicians are working fewer hours, seeing fewer patients, and limiting access to their practices based on changes in the field of medicine. The study finds that if current trends continue, the equivalent of **44,250 full-time doctors will be lost from the workforce within the next four years.**

Additionally, **more than 50 percent of remaining doctors will cut back on their patient load, work part-time only, switch to “concierge” medicine** (in which patients pay an added retainer for enhanced access and doctors see fewer patients), **retire, or take other steps that will reduce patient access.**

“President Obama promised Americans that, under the ACA law, if they liked their doctor, they could keep them. But if their doctor is no longer available because the law creates an environment so hostile to their success that they stop practicing medicine, patients won’t be able to keep them at all,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. “The President’s statement is a ruse designed to make people comfortable with a law that has a more negative impact on patients and the future of healthcare than he is willing to acknowledge.”

The CCHF calls on physicians to take back their profession, build cash-based practices, refuse to join Accountable Care Organizations, and protect patient privacy and autonomy by refusing to share patient data with state health information exchanges or the Nationwide Health Information Network.

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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.