



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

January 31, 2012

States Tied to Medicaid and ERs Threatened

A court says providing Medicaid is voluntary for States, but not really. The 1986 federal Emergency Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requires emergency rooms to treat all patients who come even if they cannot pay and forbids transfer of patients for financial reasons.

Without Medicaid subsidies for these uninsured patients, hospitals couldn't stay open. Before EMTALA was enacted, hospitals sent these patients to special indigent care facilities. No more. Today, hospitals are closing their ERs to avoid the cost of these patients because Medicaid pays poorly. That means fewer emergency rooms for the rest of us. It's time to repeal EMTALA.

["Why Medicaid Is No Longer a Voluntary Program: How the Emergency Treatment and Labor Act interferes with state sovereignty,"](#) Jeffrey A. Singer, Reason, December 30, 2011.

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 37 states: Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH, afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the Bott Radio Network.