CCHF Launches National “Refuse to Sign HIPAA” Campaign

*HIPAA Allows 2.2 Million Agencies Access to Private Patient Medical Information*

ST. PAUL, Minn.—One patient advocate is working to make sure that Americans know that the form that’s pushed across the counter at them at the doctor’s office is *not meant to protect their private patient data. In fact, the opposite is true.* The HIPAA law, thought to protect patient privacy, is simply a vehicle to *share private data with more than 2.2 million entities.*

_**Twila Brase,**_ patient advocate and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org), has *launched a campaign* to make Americans aware of their right to not sign the HIPAA “Privacy” Form at the doctor’s office. Brase believes that this is another in a long line of glaring examples of government’s deceitful tactics to create a giant network of private data on every American.

“**Contrary to popular belief,**” said Brase, “**patients are not required to sign the so-called HIPAA ‘privacy’ forms. The HIPAA form is only an acknowledgment that the clinic or hospital’s ‘Notice of Privacy Practices’ has been received. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, patients are not required to sign any form acknowledging that they received the notice.”**

Thanks to federal “privacy” rules like the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the federal HIPAA Privacy Rule, and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH, 2009), **2.2 million entities** (600,000 health care providers and 1.5 million business associates) can access patients’ private medical records without their consent. Additionally, interoperable computerized medical records **allow patient data to be shared** by health insurers, government agencies, government contractors and others.
As Obamacare deadlines approach, many states are signing on to State Health Information Exchanges, which have been created to share patients’ medical records statewide and in the National Health Information Network, now called eHealth Exchange, without consent.

“In short,” Brase said, “refuse to sign the HIPAA form that's meant to deceive you into thinking you are protecting your privacy. It does no such thing and you don’t have to sign it.”

Brase encourages citizens to take action:

• Know that signing the HIPAA form does not provide patients with any privacy or consent rights, but that signature could be used against patients if they ever declare that their privacy rights have been violated. Clinics and hospitals could use that signature to argue that patients knew their information could be shared.

• Refuse to sign any and all HIPAA acknowledgment forms.

• Ask state lawmakers to pass legislation that protects patients from HIPAA and protects private medical records from being accessed by the government and others without the patient’s voluntary informed written consent.

• Learn more at HIPAA Notice.

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Twila Brase shares health care-related news with the American public in her daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute. Health Freedom Minute airs on the entire American Family Radio Network, with more than 150 stations nationwide, in addition to Bott Radio Network with over 80 stations nationwide. During the daily features, listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and policies and what they can do to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.

Brase, a public health nurse and health care freedom advocate, informs listeners of crucial health issues, such as the intrusive wellness and prevention initiatives in Obamacare, patient privacy and the need for informed consent requirements, the dangers of “evidence-based medicine” and the implications of state and federal health care reform.

Twila Brase, a public health nurse and health freedom advocate, has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” 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. Brase shares health care-related news and commentary with the American public in her daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on nearly 350 stations daily, including the 150-station American Family Radio Network and the 80-station Bott Radio Network. During these daily features, listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives, the ramifications of proposed policies and actions that can be taken to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy. Health Freedom Minute is sponsored by the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom, a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn. CCHF supports patient and doctor freedom, medical innovation and the right of citizens to a confidential patient-doctor relationship.

For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, contact Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com.