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Today Marks the ‘Official’ Deadline to Enroll in Obamacare, ‘Unofficially’

Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom’s Twila Brase Says Americans Shouldn’t Rush to Enroll in Flawed System

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Today may mark the Opening Day of Major League Baseball, but March 31 is also a game-playing day of another kind.

Today is the deadline for Americans to enroll for health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act. Computers and tablets are most likely buzzing today, as the uninsured and those whose policies were canceled by the law rush into a flawed system to avoid a penalty.

But one patient freedom organization says enrolling in a health care plan that shares private information with countless government agencies, compromises care and takes more money from Americans’ pockets is nothing to rush into.

Twila Brase is president and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org), a Minnesota-based national organization, marking its 20th anniversary this year, whose goal is to preserve patient-centered health care and protect patient and privacy rights.

“Since October, the Obama Administration has been singing the false praises of the government health care plan,” Brase said. “It’s been six months of games, as they try to talk Americans into supporting a health care system that is flawed to its core and, in the end, will do damage to patients, health freedom and the health care system.”

Since the enrollment roll-out, the Healthcare.gov has experienced numerous hardships, including a six-hour window early this morning where the site was “down for maintenance” due to a bug in the system. The glitch was reminiscent of the terrible debut of the site in October, when few could even log on to research their options.

To compensate for imperfections, the administration has extended today’s deadline to mid-April for those who had trouble signing up.
Enrollment will resume Nov. 15, but questions loom about that next enrollment period, such as whether premiums will increase, whether people will be able to keep their doctors, or how many younger Americans must enroll to cover the cost of older Americans, Fox News reported today.

Fox News also released a poll last week showing that 56 percent of Americans surveyed oppose the law, compared to 40 percent who support it, numbers that were consistent with polls by The Associated Press and others.

*Brase* says signing up for government-run health care coverage puts Americans’ private medical data at risk, compromises care, ties the hands of medical professionals and takes more money out of Americans’ pockets. She adds that there are three legal ways to avoid enrolling in the flawed system.

1. **Buy** private insurance outside of the government exchanges, such as a private policy, employer-sponsored coverage or a private insurance exchange.
2. **Pay** the penalty tax in 2015 for being without coverage in 2014, either $95 or 1 percent of your income, whichever is greater—this is less expensive and less risky than high government premiums.
3. **Claim** one of **14 Obamacare exemptions**.

Earlier this year, *CCHF* launched its **“Refuse to Enroll” billboard campaign** to educate the public on the dangers of Obamacare and the legal alternatives to enrolling in the government-run system.

*Brase* has also written a list of the **Top Ten Terribles** of Obamacare, including four main reasons not to enroll in state exchanges:

1. **No Private Insurance**: Obamacare is “Medicaid for the middle class.”
2. **No Privacy**: Patient data enters a federal database that is accessible by the IRS.
3. **Limited Choice**: Health care coverage utilizes “narrow network” policies.
4. **High Premiums**: Income redistribution and subsidies

Twila Brase shares health care-related news with the public in her daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide on the American Family Radio Network and 90-plus stations on the Bott Radio Network. 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 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 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. 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