***NEWS RELEASE***

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Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom Addresses Minnesota Privacy Threat

State is Asking Doctors’ Offices and Clinics to Submit Private Patient Data Through Online Portal

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, a Minnesota-based national organization with a goal to preserve patient-centered health care and protect patients’ rights, hosted a press conference yesterday to inform the public about an impending patient privacy threat in Minnesota.

Twila Brase, co-founder of CCHF, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, said the press conference’s aim was to alert Minnesota residents, doctors’ offices and clinics about the push to share private patient data with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) through a newly established data portal maintained by Minnesota Community Measurement for the purpose of sharing specific, patient-level data with the state.

“The Minnesota Department of Health has asked the state’s doctors and clinics to share their patients’ private medical record details through a centralized data portal run by Minnesota Community Measurement,” Brase said. “On February 12, the state Commissioner of Health sent a letter to every doctor and medical clinic in the state asking them to give permission to allow detailed, patient-level data to be shared with the state government with the click of a button. As advocates for patient privacy, we will continue to alert the public and urge clinics not to hand over patients’ medical records to the state government for research and other unknown purposes.”

Along with Brase, Minnesota State Representative Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) also spoke at the event.

“As a state legislator,” Holberg said, “I have a long history of trying to protect the privacy rights of patients. The Department’s latest attempt to get access to all the private details of Minnesotans’ medical records shows a lack of respect for patient privacy by state health officials. I encourage Minnesotans who care about medical privacy to contact their clinics and doctors and tell them not to share their medical records with the Minnesota Department of Health.”

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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.