CITIZEN PETITION to the 2008 MN Legislature

OPPOSING the HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE – the Proposed Minnesota “single seller system” Bureaucracy for Buying Health Insurance

I, the undersigned citizen oppose establishing the Health Insurance Exchange (HIE) Bureaucracy proposed in the Minnesota Health Care Transformation Task Force Recommendations (Final Version for Approval, Jan 23, 2008) to the 2008 Minnesota Legislature because it would:

• **Violate the Citizen’s Right to Purchase Health Insurance Privately.** Individuals would be limited to buying health insurance either inside the Exchange or as approved by the Exchange: Individuals could buy health insurance outside the Exchange only “as long as the insurance product has the same premiums both inside and outside of the Exchange.”

• **Limits Choice of Health Insurance Options:** The HIE Bureaucracy would limit the number of insurance options available for purchase inside and outside the Exchange: “At least initially, there should be a limited selection of plans through the Exchange (e.g. 3 products per health insurance carrier at each benefit level…”

• **Establishes a Government Benefit Set that Limits Access to Care:** “Policies should be offered with an essential benefit set [established by a government-appointed board]…that does not cover care that has been demonstrated to be ineffective…”

• **Creates a Costly Fourth-Party Payer:** The HIE Bureaucracy becomes a 4th party in premium payment, adding another layer of bureaucracy which must be funded by higher premiums, higher taxes, administrative fees, or a combination of all three.

• **Establishes a Big Government Bureaucracy:** This new bureaucracy would be established by the state legislature and run by unelected political appointees.

• **Not Likely Remain Voluntary:** “If voluntary use for the Exchange fails to support an adequate individual and small group insurance market, use of the Exchange may need to be mandated.”

Please deliver this signed CITIZEN petition to Governor Pawlenty and the legislative leadership.

Signature _______________________________ Date________________________
Name (PLEASE PRINT) _______________________________
___ I am also a Healthcare Professional (type): ___________________________
Address ___________________________ City ___________________ State ______ Zip_________
Phone ___________________________ Email ______________________________

Citizens’ Council on Health Care, 1954 University Ave. W, Ste. 8, St. Paul, MN 55104 #651-646-8935; Email: info@cchconline.org; COMPLETE AND FAX to CCHC: #651-646-0100 or click and send online: http://www.cchconline.org/petition/SingleSeller2008.php