



***** NEWS RELEASE *****

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Americans Respond, Demand HHS Provide More Time to Comment on Proposed PPACA Regulations

Citizens Council for Health Freedom Urges HHS to Heed Public Pressure and Provide More Time to Review and Comment on Pending PPACA Regulations

Key Facts:

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services set forth four new Obamacare regulations that totaled more than 700 pages during the holiday season and allowed for only 30 days of public review and comment.
- A majority of public comments on these bills – totaling more than 80 percent on one regulation – insisted that the HHS extend the review and comment period to 90 days to allow for adequate review and public feedback.
- CCHF urges the HHS to comply with public sentiment and allow for additional review and comment on these key Obamacare regulations.

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently petitioned the American public for comment about four new regulations related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as the PPACA law. Regulations to be commented on include:

- The Benefit and Payment Parameters rule, which creates rules for new insurance fees, assesses new, individualized risk scores that can increase care costs, and also redistributes funds from those without pre-existing conditions to those that have them,
- The Establishment of Multi-State Plan Program rule, which forces exchanges to offer national health plans – a easy route to creating a single-payer program in the future,
- The Health Insurance Market Rule, which ends pre-existing condition exclusions and nationalizes coverage, leading to higher costs, and
- The Standards for "Essential Health Benefits," which outlines HHS-mandated coverage, leading to higher premiums and violated consciences.

The proposed regulations, totaling more than 700 pages of rules and stipulations, had only a 30-day window for public comment, and the timeframe fell over the winter holidays that include Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. Public outcry about the tight review timeframe was clear: Americans overwhelmingly insisted the HHS provide more time for the public to review and comment on these pending regulations. Two in particular: the multi-state plan regulation and the payment parameters regulation, received hundreds of comments and more than 70 and 80 percent respectively requested additional time for review and comment.

“The process of obtaining public sentiment on pending laws or legislative rules is mandated by law,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. “To circumvent the process by providing inadequate time during a major holiday period for the public to review and comment on pending regulations is disingenuous and should be prohibited. The HHS should act in good faith with the American public by extending the review and comment period for the four regulations in question, as per the majority of commenters.”

The [*Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom*](#) is urging the HHS to heed the public’s call for more time and extend the review periods for these four regulations to 90 days.

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Twila Brase is president and co-founder of the *Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom*. She has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” The Council’s efforts have stopped government-issued treatment directives, added informed consent requirements for access to patient data and defeated a proposed Health Insurance Exchange. Brase’s daily radio commentary, *Health Freedom Minute*, is a 60-second radio address on pressing health care issues. 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.