

**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

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## **Ten States Receive Grants to Connect with “Federal Surveillance Centers”**

*Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom Asserts that Health Insurance Exchanges Are Less About Choice, More About Monitoring Americans*

Key Facts:

- The federal health department recently announced **1.5 billion in new grants to states who are actively building their insurance “exchanges.”**
- Under Obamacare, **private health information shared with one’s doctor and entered into an electronic health record system will be available to the Federal Data Services Hub.**
- The Federal Data Services Hub accesses data from state agencies and at least five federal agencies and links it together into one profile of the individual.
- According to the [Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom](http://www.cchfreedom.org), the Federal Data Services Hub is basically a **‘Federal Surveillance Center’ where private citizen data is accessible from and transmitted to a wide body of state and federal government officials.**

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The federal health department recently granted \$1.5 billion in aid to states actively building their health insurance exchanges – government entities that feed private data into a **‘Federal Surveillance Center’ that has access to a wide variety of data about all Americans and makes it available to state and federal government agencies, according to the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, [www.cchfreedom.org](http://www.cchfreedom.org)).** The government touts the exchanges as a simple marketplace for insurance, where consumers can shop there and find many choices for health insurance. **Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom says nothing could be further from the truth.**

***“These state health insurance exchanges may be touted as marketplaces, but the words are just window dressing,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. “These exchanges are connected to what could be called the ‘Federal Surveillance Center’ – the Federal Data Services Hub. The Hub centralizes access to a citizen’s private data stored in state and federal databases – and not only health data, but also income, citizenship, employment and tax data — and makes it available to government bureaucrats. The data will be used to expand Medicaid, build middle class entitlement, and enforce compliance with the individual and employer mandate.”***

States that were awarded exchange funds include California, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Vermont; each received either a one-year or a multi-year award based on their progress in creating an exchange -- essentially the IT systems connecting state agency databases with the federal Hub.

***“Citizens must understand that under Obamacare, the individual’s information, including private medical record data, can be broadly shared. The information on family relationships, employment and income will be linked and shared,” Brase said. “Privacy is a thing of the past with Obamacare, unless we stop the government exchanges from moving forward.”***

The Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom admonishes all citizens to take simple steps to protect themselves and help stop government intrusion into health care:

- Refuse to sign HIPPA compliance forms at your doctors’ appointments. Doing so forces the doctors’ offices to contact the patient anytime they need to release private health data to obtain permission before releasing it.
- For citizens’ whose states have not set up an exchange, they should thank their governor and contact their state legislators asking them to continue opposing implementation of a state health insurance exchange.

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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.