Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom Urges Minnesota Residents to Help Stop Bill to Repeal Patient Consent Requirements

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF) is urging Minnesota residents to help stop a plan to repeal the state’s strong patient consent requirements—patient rights to control who accesses medical data and the patient’s right to stop outsiders from interfering in the exam room.

“If consent rights are repealed,” says CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase, “individually-identifiable patient data will be used to profile patients, analyze personal lives and control doctors’ treatment decisions.”

CCHF is opposing HF 831 and is relying on Minnesotans to call, email and provide written or oral testimony to stop the bill. Authored by Rep. Laurie Halverson (DFL-Eagan), HF 831 repeals consent protections in Minnesota’s “better than HIPAA” privacy law. Today under Minnesota law, hospitals, clinics, physicians and others must have patient consent before they can share or use confidential health information.

Currently, the protective Minnesota Health Records Act (MHRA, 144.291-144.298) lets patients keep self-interested third parties from seeing private information, using it against them and selling it.

If HR 831 passes, says CCHF, the repeal of these MHRA protections means Minnesota patients will be exposed to:

1. Outside Control of Doctors, as government and third parties use patient data to develop and impose harmful “one-size-fits-all” treatment protocols and penalize doctors who refuse to comply.
2. Lifelong Real-Time Health Surveillance of all diagnoses, treatments, recorded statements, physician comments, behaviors, medications, genetic codes, family structure and more. This also eliminates a patient’s right to an unbiased, second opinion.
3. Patient Profiling by corporations using data on patient and family behavior, social media posts, schedules, genetic weaknesses, family dynamics, lifestyle choices, attitudes and political opinions.
4. Profiteering as Big Data and Big Health corporations use, share and sell health information without patient consent. Storage and analysis of health data is valued at $7 billion per year.
5. Potential Access by 2.2 Million Entities, Plus the Government to private health information without patient consent.
7. Data Breaches, as confidential health information is made accessible through the Internet.

“Protecting privacy protects freedom. It protects control,” Brase added. “It lets patients and doctors control what happens in the exam room. As CCHF has long said, ‘He who holds the data makes the rules.’ We believe the holder of the data should be patients.”
CCHF representatives will testify at the Minnesota House Committee on Health and Human Services Policy hearing for HF 831 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. CT Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 200 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155

CCHF is asking residents to take action in several ways:

1. Attend, Testify or Contact: Be a presence at the hearing as CCHF testifies against HF 831, make oral or written testimonies, and/or call committee members urging them to oppose the bill.
2. Email CCHF a Letter: CCHF will print and share with legislators. Include stories or real-life impact that encourage members to vote “no” on HF 831.
3. Contact Committee Members: To call or email committee members, click here and to contact CCHF to discuss a letter or testimony.

In 2018, CCHF helped stop this bill. This year, with legislators not facing an election, citizen help will be especially critical.

In a new book, Brase writes extensively about how the HIPAA rule is not a privacy rule, but a disclosure rule (Section IV), as well as socialized medicine, patient privacy, electronic health records, health freedom and how the Affordable Care Act has harmed patients and doctors since 2010. Find “Big Brother in the Exam Room: The Dangerous Truth About Electronic Health Records” online wherever books are sold or at BigBrotherintheExamRoom.com.

Learn more about CCHF at www.cchfreedom.org, its Facebook page or its Twitter feed @CCHFreedom. Also view the media page for CCHF here. For more about CCHF’s initiative The Wedge of Health Freedom, visit www.JointheWedge.com, The Wedge Facebook page or follow The Wedge on Twitter @wedgeoffreedom.

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