For Immediate Release
April 29, 2019

Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom: Burdensome Regulations Are Pushing Doctors Out of Medicine

New Study Predicts Shortage of 122,000 Doctors by 2032 Due to ‘Graying’ America, But CCHF Leader Says Doctors Are Actually Leaving Profession Because It’s ‘Not the Job They Signed Up For’

ST. PAUL, Minn.—According to a new study from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the nation may face a shortage of nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032, Healthcare Dive has reported.

In part, the article blames the shortage on the “graying” of America, as both medical professionals and patients age, stating that “one-third of active doctors will be older than 65 within the next decade.”

But Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF) says the impending shortage has much more to do with the state of health care that’s causing them to leave the practice of medicine—or not enter the field in the first place.

“It’s not about doctors with gray hair, it’s about what Congress, regulators and health plans have done to cause doctors to pull out their hair. Patients need physicians,” tweeted CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase, adding the hashtag, #givedoctorsreasontostay.

As evidence, Brase pointed to a separate recent study that found that a majority of doctors say “barriers set by insurance plans have led to worsened conditions for patients in need of care.”

Researchers with Aimed Alliance found that doctors are so fed up with the constant headaches caused by insurers, two-thirds would recommend against pursuing a career in medicine, and nearly half (48%) are considering a career change altogether.

Another culprit in the “mass exodus” of doctors from the practice of medicine, Brase says, is the forcing of government-mandated electronic health records (EHRs) on doctors.

“How do both of these trends impact patients?” she asks. “For one, patients may lose their longtime doctors who choose to leave their occupations because of these unnecessary but very real frustrations. People in America think we have the best medical care there is, and yet a mass exodus of physicians is taking place. It is not the job they signed up for, not the profession they gave their life for or went to school a decade or more to achieve. They actually care about patients, and want to serve patients, but that care component is being driven out of the system. They were on a mission, and the mission has been thwarted.”

Brase’s award-winning book, “Big Brother in the Exam Room: The Dangerous Truth About Electronic Health Records,” explores how government EHRs negatively impact both patients and doctors and have changed the way medical professionals care for those in their exam rooms.
This desire to “exit” the practice of medicine has not subsided, Brase says. In her book, she cites a 2016 physicians survey, which found that 48% of doctors were considering leaving patient care or making a drastic reduction in the number of patients they see.

And since the July release of Brase’s book, a 2018 updated survey shows great frustration, with 89.5 percent of physicians saying they have “somewhat,” “little” or “very little” influence in the health care system. And even though doctors said patient relationships are “their greatest sources of professional satisfaction,” the survey finds 78% of doctors sometimes, often or always experience burnout—perhaps because doctors said EHRs are “their greatest source of professional dissatisfaction.”

In “Big Brother in the Exam Room,” which has recently garnered several honors, Brase writes extensively about government health care, socialized medicine, patient privacy, EHRs, health freedom and how the Affordable Care Act has harmed patients and doctors since its 2010 enactment. Find “Big Brother in the Exam Room” online wherever books are sold or at BigBrotherintheExamRoom.com.

For more information about CCHF, visit 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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