

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

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South Dakota Says ‘Yes’ to Patient Freedom!

Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom: Measure Restores Patient Choice and Gives Doctors Freedom to Treat

ST. PAUL, Minn.—As voters around the country headed to the polls yesterday, South Dakota spoke loud and clear for patient freedom, as health care is being more controlled than ever before.

Sixty-two percent of voters approved a ballot initiative stating that health insurers must treat as “in-network” any health care provider who is willing and qualified and who meets conditions for participation established by a health plan, according to reporting from Politico.

Initiated Measure 17 was strongly opposed by health insurers and business groups, but specialty hospitals and the South Dakota State Medical Association supported it, as well as *Citizens Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org)*, a Minnesota-based national organization dedicated to preserving patient-centered health care and protecting patient and privacy rights.

“This is a groundbreaking development in South Dakota, as voters put health care decisions back in their own hands,” said CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase. “After this historic vote, every doctor who wants to be available to every patient will be free to do so. Individuals will be able to choose from the full roster of physicians and other practitioners. They won’t be limited to the list of clinicians the health plan chooses. Congress gave managed care the power to limit and ration care. Initiated Measure 17 gives power back to the people.”

Brase added that South Dakota set the precedent for “any willing provider” laws, and she hopes that more states will follow suit. Managed care plans have become an arm of the government and network limits are a rationing strategy. The HMO Act of 1973 empowered the government to build managed care plans nationwide. Obamacare then further empowered the government by making true health insurance (major medical policies) illegal for anyone over the age of 29.

IM-17 was premised on patient choice that allows state residents to decide if they will have the freedom to choose their own doctors and hospitals, rather than choose from providers inside a limited network, pay extra out-of-pocket expenses to see doctors outside the network, and travel long distances to see specialists who are covered through the network but may be located far away.

*Celebrating its 20th year, **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom** is a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn. CCHF exists to protect health care choices and patient privacy. CCHF sponsors the daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide on the American Family Radio Network and 90-plus stations on the Bott Radio Network. Listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.*

CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase, R.N., has been called one of the "100 Most Powerful People in Health Care" and one of "Minnesota's 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders." Brase, a public health nurse, 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. She is at the forefront of informing the public of crucial health issues, such as intrusive wellness and prevention initiatives in Obamacare, patient privacy, informed consent, the dangers of "evidence-based medicine" and the implications of state and federal health care reform.

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For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom*, contact Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com.