

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

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CCHF Applauds Governor Walker's Refusal to Implement a State Health Insurance Exchange

Federal Government Now Responsible for Wisconsin Health Insurance Exchange

Key Facts:

- Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker announced last week that he would not seek to deploy a health insurance exchange at the state level in Wisconsin, leaving the federal government in charge of the state's exchange.
- Walker cited the lack of freedom to design an exchange under federal rules and the undisclosed costs that Wisconsinites could be saddled with among his reasons for his refusal.
- The *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)* supports Walker's decision and urges other states that have not yet made their decision to move toward total refusal and complete lack of cooperation with federal implementation of health insurance exchanges.

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker recently refused implementation of a Wisconsin owned and operated health insurance exchange, citing lack of design freedom and potentially undisclosed costs to taxpayers as impetus for his refusal. His decision letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius noted that Wisconsin is already able to provide healthcare to 90 percent of its citizen population without an exchange, and the new system would not improve coverage for state citizens.

The [Citizens' Council for Health Freedom \(CCHF\)](http://www.cchffreedom.org) applauds Walker's judgment on this issue.

“Governor Walker has made the best possible decision to preserve health freedom for patients in the state of Wisconsin,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom. “The state has done a good job of insuring its citizens without government exchanges and should be allowed to continue to do so in a manner that does not jeopardize the

quality of care, the doctor-patient relationship, patient privacy or the budget of the state and its taxpayers.”

Walker joined 19 other Republican governors in turning over exchange responsibilities to the federal government, putting HHS in the position of having to shoulder the responsibility of deploying and funding the exchange in those states. Another 23 states opted to institute their own exchanges, while another 8 remain undecided about which path to choose.

The ***CCHF*** continues to advocate for state refusal to implement health insurance exchanges relative to the Affordable Care Act. Government-run exchanges have been shown to be extraordinarily expensive, detrimental to patient care and designed for the purpose of tracking and enforcing the individual and employer mandates. There are other options – such as private exchanges – that offer easy access to coverage without damage to privacy or patient care. States must pursue more effective options to help citizens gain private, high-quality healthcare coverage.

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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.