

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

For Immediate Release  
February 1, 2016

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## **Will Gun Control Policies Affect Patient Privacy?**

### *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom: President's Change in HIPAA Allows Certain Clinics and Hospitals to Report Data Concerning Firearms Prohibitors*

**ST. PAUL, Minn.**—Last year was a tragic time for gun violence in the United States, with 372 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2015, killing 475 people and wounding 1,870, according to a report by BBC News.

For good reason, many are looking for ways to keep Americans safe. But some gun control policies could come at the expense of patient privacy rights, says Twila Brase, president and co-founder of *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, [www.cchfreedom.org](http://www.cchfreedom.org))*, a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn., existing to protect health care choices, individualized patient care, and medical and genetic privacy rights.

Brase recently discussed President Obama's gun control efforts and their link to the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) "Privacy" Rule—which doesn't ensure patients' privacy at all—during *CCHF's* daily, 60-second [Health Freedom Minute](#) radio feature. (Also visit *CCHF's* web page dedicated to [HIPAA here](#).)

***"As part of Obama's crackdown on guns, the HIPAA privacy rule has been changed to allow certain individuals to be reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System," Brase said. "The new HIPAA rule grants certain clinics, hospitals and data repositories permission to report a set of personal data to the database, including name, birth date and a number that indicates the individual is subject to firearms prohibitions under the Federal Mental Health Prohibitor, a classification which is assigned for reasons such as involuntary commitment, incompetency, insanity or being declared a danger to themselves and others."***

HIPAA already allows certain reporting to law enforcement without patients' consent, but this reporting wasn't permissible under HIPAA. Now it is, Brase added.

*CCHF* has long educated Americans that they are not required to sign the HIPAA form when it is passed across the counter at doctor's offices, hospitals and clinics. In fact, *CCHF* says, signing—or

not signing—the form does not protect privacy, as many think, but rather, gives 2.2 million entities access to patient data through HIPAA and HITECH. Furthermore, if patients refuse to sign the HIPAA “privacy” form, some clinics, doctors or hospitals may incorrectly refuse to provide treatment, thereby putting them in violation of patients’ HIPAA rights.

Heard on 367 stations nationwide, including 200 on the American Family Radio Network and 100 on the Bott Radio Network, Health Freedom Minute helps listeners learn more about the agenda behind health care initiatives, as well as steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy. The one-minute program is free for stations to run; for details, contact Michael Hamilton at [mhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com](mailto:mhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com) or (610) 584-1096 or (215) 519-4838.

For more information about **CCHF**, visit its web site at [www.cchfreedom.org](http://www.cchfreedom.org), its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cchfreedom](http://www.facebook.com/cchfreedom) or its Twitter feed, @CCHFfreedom.

***Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom**, a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn., exists to protect health care choices, individualized patient care, and medical and genetic privacy rights. **CCHF** sponsors the daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on approximately 350 stations nationwide, including 200 on the American Family Radio Network and 100 on the Bott Radio Network. Listeners can learn more about the agenda behind 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.” A public health nurse, Brase 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 at 215-815-7716 or 610-584-1096, or Beth Harrison at 610-584-1096, [Media@HamiltonStrategies.com](mailto:Media@HamiltonStrategies.com).**