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

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## Report Finds 300+ Obamacare Cybersecurity Incidents; HealthCare.Gov Vulnerable to Hackers

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom: Compromised Patient Privacy is Just One of the Problems That Abound Six Years After Obamacare Was Signed Into Law

**ST. PAUL, Minn.**—Over 18 months, <u>HealthCare.gov</u>, the government online portal used by millions to purchase health insurance under Obamacare, logged 316 cybersecurity incidents from October 2013 to March 2015, according to a new report released last week.

And even more unsettling is the fact that the report by the Government Accountability Office, made up of nonpartisan congressional investigators, found that the system remains vulnerable to hackers, with the GAO reporting that security flaws "will likely continue to jeopardize the confidentiality, integrity and availability of <a href="HealthCare.gov">HealthCare.gov</a>," says Fox News.

Protecting patient privacy is a key objective for *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, 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.

"Since its inception, security has been a huge problem for Obamacare enrollment, with a government web site that was fraught with issues from Day One," said Twila Brase, president and co-founder of CCHF. "Now, we have proof from a nonpartisan report that patient data is in danger, and in fact, the system has already been 'probed' by hackers. It's time to accept the fact that Obamacare has been disastrous from the start. Let's not allow this harmful government health care system to mark a seventh anniversary. The time for repeal is now."

Also according to Fox News, the GAO found insufficiently restricted administrator privileges for data hub systems, inconsistent application of security patches, and insecure configuration of an administrative network, as well as weaknesses in technical controls that could place sensitive information at risk of unauthorized disclosure, modification or loss. In a separate report with limited

distribution, the GAO recommended 27 actions to mitigate the identified weaknesses.

The potential of cybersecurity breaches is just one of many serious problems with Obamacare—even as the federal health care law "celebrated" six years on March 23. Brase says other problems abound, such as these facts, which were reported in *CCHF's* most recent <u>eNews Commentary</u>:

- Just 36.7% Americans favor the law.
- Thirteen of 24 Obamacare co-ops have <u>failed</u> and one has <u>sued</u> the federal government.
- Exchange enrollment has <u>stalled</u>.
- Desperate federal agencies are <u>letting ineligible people enroll</u> to pump up enrollment numbers.
- Republicans refused to give \$2.5 billion in bailouts to health insurers that lost money.
- Some insurers are <u>exiting</u> the exchanges.

Brase discusses patient privacy issues frequently on *CCHF's* daily one-minute radio feature "Health Freedom Minute." Heard on almost 400 stations nationwide, including nearly 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 60-second program is free for stations to run; for details, contact Michael Hamilton at <a href="mailton@hamiltonstrategies.com">mhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com</a> or (610) 584-1096 or (215) 519-4838.

For more information about *CCHF*, visit its web site at <u>www.cchfreedom.org</u>, its Facebook page at <u>www.facebook.com/cchfreedom</u> or its Twitter feed, @CCHFreedom.

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 400 stations nationwide, including nearly 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.