***NEWS RELEASE***

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‘Marketplace’ of State Health Insurance Exchanges Sends Patient Data Straight to Federal Government Agencies

Twila Brase, President of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, Says State Exchanges Are Deceptive
St. Paul, Minn.—With the pending Supreme Court hearing on health care taking place in two weeks, much will be uncovered about Obamacare. President Obama and others compare the health insurance exchanges to the functionality of online airline bookings. Exchanges have been billed as online “marketplaces” where consumers can shop for the “best deal and the smartest health insurance plan.” These health insurance exchanges seem harmless on the surface. Federal officials are even offering to let each state create their own exchange, giving the impression that states will have control over the process.

The real story is quite different. While these state exchanges may appear to be a simple way for patients to log in through a website to buy health insurance, the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom warns, every state exchange is simply a portal connected to the Federal government through the Federal Data Services Hub. (see graphic below or click http://www.cchfreedom.org/files/files/VOP_Portal_Focus.pdf for the online version.) This direct linkage for data sharing on individual citizens illustrates why this system should be concerning for all Americans.

“What’s deceiving about state health insurance exchanges is that they’re billed as a way for states to control the process and for citizens to choose their own health insurance,” said Twila Brase, president and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF), a patient-centered national health policy organization based in St. Paul, Minn. “But the state exchange is simply a direct conduit to a larger national system, allowing the federal government to collect all sorts of personal data on private citizens and impose control over health care. The final exchange regulations issued yesterday number 644 pages and use the word 'require' 327 times and 'must' 1,004 times.”

Individual data entered into one of these state portals is sent to the Federal Data Services Hub, where it is reviewed by any number of federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

“The state exchanges are considered the heart of reform, as important to reform proponents as the controversial individual mandate. This centralized data collection is where the federal government’s monitoring and nationwide control over health care begins,” Brase said. “From here, data on individual health, incomes and compliance with the individual mandate are used to make federal decisions and enforce federal regulations about what is covered by insurance, the amount that is covered, who will be allowed to provide care, what they will be paid, and how the government will be involved in other life decisions.”

With Brase’s help, three states have been able to stop exchanges—Wisconsin, Michigan and North Dakota. Brase was recently honored with a state citation for her work against exchanges in Wisconsin. Thus far, 31 states have no law authorizing a health insurance exchange, and many are waiting for this summer’s Supreme Court decision on the controversial Affordable
Care Act, or Obamacare. The Supreme Court has set aside three days later this month, March 26-28, to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the federal health care overhaul.

Eventually, the state exchanges are expected to become a drain on already tight state budgets as well. After January, 2015, when the federal government will cease subsidizing the state portals, each state will have to pay approximately $30 million annually to maintain them.

Twila Brase shares health care-related news with the American public in her daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute. Health Freedom Minute airs on the entire American Family Radio Network, with more than 150 stations nationwide, in addition to Bott Radio Network with over 80 stations nationwide. During the daily features, listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and policies and what they can do to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.

Brase, a public health nurse and health care freedom advocate, informs listeners of crucial health issues, such as the intrusive wellness and prevention initiatives in Obamacare, patient privacy and the need for informed consent requirements, the dangers of “evidence-based medicine” and the implications of state and federal health care reform.

Health Freedom Minute is sponsored by the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, a freedom-focused, patient-centered national health care organization based in St. Paul, Minn. CCHF supports patient and doctor freedom, medical innovation and the right of citizens to a confidential patient-doctor relationship.

For more information about Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, visit www.cchfreedom.org.

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For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, contact Michael Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.519.4838, 610.584.1096, MHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com

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.