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Minnesota Senate Votes to Eliminate Genetic Privacy Rights for Newborn Babies

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Denounces Senate's Violation of Privacy and Parental Rights

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org*) released the following statement after the Minnesota State Senate voted yesterday to repeal genetic privacy for newborns and allow the state to collect and store newborn DNA without parental consent. The vote was on bill S.F. 2047, the Newborn Screening Program Modification.

"Yesterday, the Minnesota State Senate effectively told parents that their newborn child's genetic information is, by default, the property of the state government," said CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase. "Make no mistake. This bill was never about newborn screening, never about protecting the health of babies, and never about benefitting children or their families. It was about one thing only: stripping parents of initial right of consent in determining whether their child's DNA is stored by the government and used for research. In 2011, the Minnesota Supreme Court spoke very clearly in upholding the right of parents and a parental consent requirement before newborn DNA could be warehoused by the state. Yesterday's vote undermines the court's ruling as well as the privacy and property rights of newborn babies. The State Senate just awarded state government ownership of the genetic information of every newborn baby citizen in Minnesota. It just voted to repeal genetic privacy rights at birth. This should alarm not only every parent in the state but also every citizen who believes in the parent's right to protect their child and the individual's right to keep their genetic code private."

The final vote was 41-22, with one Democrat voting against the measure and six Republicans voting in favor of it.

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org) is a Minnesota-based national organization dedicated to preserving patient-centered health care and protecting patient and privacy rights.

Celebrating its 20th year, **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom** *is a patient-centered national health freedom 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. **CCHF** also 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.