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## **Governor Mark Dayton Signs Bill Repealing Parental Consent, Genetic Privacy Rights for Newborn Babies**

### *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Says Bill Violates Privacy and Property Rights*

ST. PAUL, Minn.—*Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, [www.cchfreedom.org](http://www.cchfreedom.org))* released the following statement after Governor Mark Dayton signed a bill yesterday allowing the state to collect and store DNA without parental consent.

***“Governor Dayton clearly disregarded the rights of parents by handing over to the state the initial right of ownership of newborn DNA,” said CCHF President and Co-founder Twila Brase. “This law that Governor Dayton signed was never about newborn screening; it was never about the health and welfare of children. It was about denying parents first right of consent in the ownership of their child’s genetic blueprint and allowing the state to store newborn DNA and use it for research without parental consent. Governor Dayton did more than sign a bill; he crossed out the right of parents to protect their children and the privacy and property rights of newborn babies.”***

Under the bill, Minnesota will be permitted to retain blood samples from newborn babies without parental consent. Parents can still “opt out” and ask that their baby’s test results and DNA not be stored, but they must first figure out it happened, learn they can opt out, and then figure out how to do it.

Other opponents to the bill included the New York-based Council for Responsible Genetics and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Minnesota, which called the legislation a “dangerous effort to enable unlimited retention and minimize parental consent, allowing newborn blood samples to be used at the whim of the government and researchers, rather than through the consent of the newborn and their family.” The ACLU also added that the bill is “problematic for numerous reasons. It represents a radical departure from traditional practice. It implicates important privacy and self-

determination interests. The information is not anonymous. Finally, obtaining informed consent for the retention and later use after newborn screening for all purposes is not only possible but practical.”

**Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, [www.cchffreedom.org](http://www.cchffreedom.org))** is a Minnesota-based national organization dedicated to preserving patient-centered health care and protecting patient and privacy rights.

*Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com).**