



NEWS RELEASE

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Medicare Heading for Bankruptcy in Next Decade; Obama Plans to Cut Medicare Advantage Program

*Twila Brase of Citizens' Council for Health Freedom
Says Small Print of Obamacare Will Hurt Seniors Long-Term*

St. Paul, Minn.—In her weekly newsletter, patient advocate *Twila Brase*, co-founder of *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)*, recently shared alarming information from the Medicare Trustees report on the **looming bankruptcy of Medicare**.

The report recently made headlines as it estimated that **Medicare would be bankrupt by the year 2024, but could be out of money as early as 2017—just five years from now—if expenses run high.**

“The impending demise of Medicare is just one more reason we can’t rely solely on government programs for our health care,” says Brase, president of CCHF, a patient-centered national health policy organization. “And new headlines have also shown us that in addition to being extraordinarily costly, Obamacare will also drastically cut the Medicare Advantage plan, an alternative to Medicare that more than 12 million seniors choose. This is a little-publicized plan in the small print of Obamacare, but one that seniors will find out about just before election time.”

Brase is referring to a recent report highlighting massive cuts to Medicare and other programs as part of Obamacare. The most oppressive aspects of the Obamacare law don’t kick in until after the 2012 election, when the president will no longer be accountable to Americans. But certain voters would surely notice one highly painful part of the law before then—the way it guts the popular Medicare Advantage program.

For years, 12 million seniors have relied on these policies, a more market-oriented alternative to traditional Medicare, without the gaps in coverage. But as part of its hundreds of billions in Medicare cuts, the Obama one-size-fits-all plan slashes reimbursement rates for Medicare Advantage starting next year, herding many seniors back into the government-run program.

Under federal open-enrollment guidelines, seniors must pick their Medicare coverage program for 2013 by the end of 2012 and that open enrollment period begins on Oct. 15, just before Election Day.

“Whether or not the timing of the Medicare Advantage cuts has anything to do with the election, at Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, we are committed to educating the public – especially seniors – about the potential negative impact that Obamacare will have on their Medicare coverage.”

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 patient-centered national health freedom organization. ***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*** or to sign up for the weekly ***CCHF Health eNews***, 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. She 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.