



***** NEWS RELEASE *****

For Immediate Release
June 19, 2012

CONTACT:

Michael Hamilton
Hamilton Strategies
215.519.4838 (cell)
610.584.1096
MHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com

Karyn Price
Hamilton Strategies
215.858.1184
610.584.1096
kprice@hamiltonstrategies.com

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Denounces Current Push to Implement Unique Patient ID

American Privacy at Risk; 14-year Congressional Prohibition in Jeopardy

Key Facts:

- 1996 passage of HIPAA allowed for a unique patient identifier, or UPI, which threatens patient privacy.
- Amidst public outcry at its passage, Congress prohibited funding to implement the UPI.
- Obamacare and new HIPAA rule may remove the prohibition and advance the UPI.
- The **CCHF** has issued a new report which includes recommendations for State legislators and Congress to restore patient privacy rights and trust.

ST. PAUL Minn. – The 1996 passage of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) entailed a hotly contested mandate to issue each and every American a Unique Patient Identifier, or UPI, number. The new form of medical identification would identify every patient, link their medical records, and allow for broad sharing, monitoring research, and analysis of the American public through the Nationwide Health Information Network, or NHIN. Public outcry against the UPI forced Congress to prohibit funding for the card, in order to stop its implementation.

But at least three new [initiatives](#), including new rules and standardized operations in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, attempt to bypass this prohibition and advance the implementation of a national patient ID card. According to the **Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)**, advancement of this type of identification limits patient privacy and makes each patient record available to *2.2 million entities*, including government officials, without patient consent.

“Most citizens are unaware of federal plans for a national patient ID and a national computerized medical records system,” said Twila Brase, a public health nurse and the President of the CCHF. “Research shows that the public continues to strongly support patient privacy and remains concerned about the impact of online electronic medical records on patient privacy and control over the sensitive personal details of their private lives.”

The CCHF is currently calling for policymakers to repeal the national unique patient identifier and prohibit its use. Brase cites 15 available policy proposals that would restore the privacy rights of Americans and restore the trust of patients.

“Policymakers should begin now to protect and restore patient privacy, patient trust, and patient data ownership rights by repealing the national patient ID and prohibiting its use,” said Brase. “Since the 1996 federal HIPAA law and the 2000 final HIPAA “privacy” rule allow stronger, more privacy-protecting state laws to supersede the HIPAA law and rule, state legislators and members of Congress should consider any one of the [fifteen proposals](#) that we at CCHF recommend in our most recent Policy Insights update for July 2012, which is available online on the CCHF website. It is imperative that we move to restore American privacy now, before the regulations embedded in Obamacare and HIPAA destroy it forever.”

Twila 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. For more information about ***Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom*** or to sign up for the weekly ***CCHF Health Freedom eNews***, visit www.cchfreedom.org.

###

For more information or to interview ***Twila Brase***, president and co-founder of ***Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom***, contact Karyn Price, Hamilton Strategies, 215.858.1184, 610.584.1096, or KPrice@HamiltonStrategies.com.