



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

For Immediate Release
July 23, 2012

CONTACT:

Karyn Price, Hamilton Strategies, 610-584-1096 (office), 215-858-1184 (cell), kprice@hamiltonstrategies.com
Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Commends States that Have Refused Health Exchange Implementation

CCHF Cites Refusal to Implement as Last Hope for Protecting Patient Privacy and State Budgets

Key Facts:

- ***Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)*** cites refusal to implement state healthcare exchanges as the best way to limit the local effects of the Affordable Care Act.
- State healthcare exchanges are expected to add millions of dollars to state budgets annually.
- Several states have refused to implement exchanges and ***CCHF*** applauds their resolve to find better solutions to the healthcare problem.

ST. PAUL, M.N. – Though the Supreme Court has ruled the taxes and Medicaid expansions within the Affordable Care Act constitutional, many states are left wondering how to effectively pay for and manage components of the law, such as healthcare exchanges, which are estimated to add \$340 billion to the nation's deficit and create \$17 trillion in long-term, unfunded liabilities and cost each individual state millions each year.

In response, some have come out publicly and refused implementation of these state-based portals that will be used to funnel patient information and health records to the federal government. The ***Citizens' Council for Health Freedom*** commends this action and urges others to do the same, while looking for more effective and efficient means to reform healthcare, like defined contribution health insurance rather than defined benefits insurance.

“States like Alaska, Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Wisconsin have taken the bold and responsible step to look for alternative ways to reform healthcare without adding hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to their state's budgets,” Brase remarked. “They recognize that

the standard of care will decrease while costs will increase, making it more difficult to maintain health freedom for all. We commend their efforts and urge others to do the same.”

Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, has long urged states to refuse implementation of state-wide exchanges, citing both cost and citizen privacy implications that are hard to ignore.

“These state exchanges are really the crux of the Affordable Care Act,” said Brase. “It is mandated that each one be connected to the larger, nationwide exchange and enable sharing of information on a national level with multiple government agencies and entities that have no place in what goes on between a person and his or her doctor. By refusing to implement an exchange, states protect the doctor patient relationship and keep care where it belongs, while preventing an extremely costly and ineffective system from moving forward.”

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 Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, or DHamilton@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.