



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

For Immediate Release
September 11, 2012

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CCHF to Present Written Testimony to U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Opposing State Health Exchange Implementation

Key Facts:

- The U.S. House of Representative Ways and Means Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing on Wednesday about the status of health insurance exchange implementation and related regulations.
- To date, final regulations about mandated packages, expected enrollee costs, and other exchange-related information, has not been provided to states, employers, and health plans, which hinders exchange implementation.
- The Citizens' Council for Health Freedom supports this hearing and will submit written testimony in opposition of the implementation of state healthcare exchanges.

ST. PAUL, Minn. – On Wednesday, September 12, 2012, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means and its subcommittee on health will hold a hearing to learn more about the state implementation of health insurance exchanges. The Committee outlined in a hearing advisory that, without final guidelines from the Obama Administration on such issues as mandated benefits packages, expected enrollee costs, and other exchange-related information, uncertainty “threatens to saddle stakeholders with higher costs and also increases the risk of waste, fraud, and abuse.”^[1]

The Citizens' Council on Health Freedom supports this measure and urges the committee to consider the implications on state budgets and patient privacy of continuing to force state health exchange implementation on the states, especially without necessary guidance from the Administration. With live testimony limited to a small number of invited witnesses, Twila Brase, President of the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom, will submit written testimony in opposition of exchanges, citing the damage to doctor-patient relationships and subsequent

delivery of care, the huge burden on state budgets, the imposition of federal control, and the unprecedented intrusion on privacy that state exchanges enable.

Specifically, Brase's testimony will make the following key points, among others:

1. Exchanges limit competition, because only government-approved plans are available for sale.
2. States are not required to set up exchanges, as that would constitute Federal commandeering of the State by the Federal Government. The ACA law acknowledges this by enacting the Federal Exchange as a fall-back for states that do not implement exchanges.
3. The true purpose of Exchanges is to register citizen compliance with the individual mandate and to enable IRS enforcement of tax penalties for those who do not comply.
4. State exchanges are required by the ACA law to share private citizen data with the Federal Data Services Hub, a gross intrusion on personal privacy.

“At the CCHF, we oppose health insurance exchanges, because they facilitate government intrusion into private healthcare and do not solve critical healthcare problems. The good news in this situation is that the Ways and Means Committee is now acknowledging that without proper guidance, implementation of state health exchanges can be disastrous,” said Brase. “Launching state health exchanges without final guidelines will add to the already astronomical deployment costs, based on changes that are likely to be made once final guidelines are published. The federal government’s failure to provide guidance through regulations shows disregard for the financial health of States and improper use of the administrative process for implementing law.”

The Citizens' Council for Health Freedom will present the Ways and Means Committee with written testimony outlining the case against both state and federal health exchanges, and is urging all other relevant public organizations with pertinent concerns do the same. Written testimony is being accepted until the close of business on September 26, 2012. For details on guidelines to submit written testimony, read the [hearing advisory online](#) on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee website.

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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.