



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

# Health Freedom Minute

February 21, 2020

## **Pull the Plug on HIPAA; Don't Extend It**

HIPAA is NOT a privacy law. This permissive data-sharing rule has destroyed patient privacy rights. At least 2.2 million entities, plus government, can access patient data if doctors, hospitals and others choose to share. This includes 1.5 million business associates, such as Google.

But now Congress wants to put third-party health apps under HIPAA. They say it will protect patient privacy. But the real purpose cannot possibly be to protect privacy because HIPAA protects no one's privacy.

The only thing regulators and Congress should do is to restore the patient consent and ownership rights that Americans used to have before HIPAA. The Trump administration could do it unilaterally without Congress by simply changing the HIPAA rule. It's time to pull the plug on HIPAA, not extend it to health apps.

**“Proposed Bill Closes Privacy Gaps Posed by Third-Party Health Apps,”**  
Jessica Davis, Health IT Security, November 20, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2SWMoak>

**“Congress Introduces the Smartwatch Data Act,”** Compliancy Group,  
November 25, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2P9ykcg>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:  
Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH,  
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