



NEWS RELEASE

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CCHF Maintains that Privacy, Security of Data in State Exchanges and Federal Data Services Hub is Impossible

Leading Health Freedom Advocacy Group States Recent Hacktivism Against U.S. Government Sites Proves IT Security is Lacking; Federal Data Services Hub and State Exchanges Will be Vulnerable

Key Points:

- The *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF)* "**Obamacare Hub**" diagram shows the interconnectedness of state health insurance exchanges and the Federal Data Services Hub. These entities store or transfer large amounts of sensitive, personal data.
- The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) have tracked almost 300,000 compromised Social Security numbers and the Office for Civil Rights has received more than 77,000 complaints of breaches in health information privacy, according to recent reports.[\[1\]](#)
- *CCHF* maintains that the speed of implementation will result in insufficient data protections in a PPACA technology infrastructure that is a rich target for data thieves and that patient data will be compromised, and therefore implementation must be halted until patient data security can be assured.

ST. PAUL, M.N. – The *Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.com)* is urging the halting of state health insurance exchange implementation until security for each exchange as well as the Federal Data Services Hub can be assured.

All state exchanges are interconnected with the Federal Data Services Hub and with each other. They also allow access by other government agencies, which is shown in the *CCHF's* "[Obamacare Hub – Transfer of Data and Dollars](#)" diagram. This interconnectedness, combined with a no assurance of data security creates significant concerns over the privacy of citizens' personal health, family, employment and tax data.

Recent reports state that the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) have tracked almost 300,000 compromised Social Security numbers and the Office for Civil Rights has received more than 77,000 complaints of breaches in health information privacy, according to recent reports.^[2] According to *Twila Brase, President of the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom*, the large and increasing number of patient data breaches is unacceptable.

“These health insurance exchanges are being branded as innocuous, easy-to-use portals to get affordable health care, when in fact they are extensive government data-sharing systems that lack information security and offer easy access to hackers, identity thieves and others interested in surreptitiously gaining access to people’s private information,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. “New research, news articles and recent figures show that the data housed in the health insurance exchanges and the federal data hub will be a rich target for hackers and cyber-terrorists.”

Brase and the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom are urging federal and state entities responsible for deploying health insurance exchanges and the Federal Data Services Hub to slow or halt implementation until critical security issues can be audited and assured.

“This national insurance exchange system will be the largest IT system ever created in our history and they are not sure it will work and they cannot assure the security of this very private data. The public should be notified that their data may be susceptible to hackers and other breaches,” concluded Brase.

The *Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom* provides extensive research and resources for individuals that want to better understand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – also known as PPACA– law and the potential impact on healthcare and insurance coverage. For more information, citizens can visit www.cchfreedom.org.

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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.

[1] <http://www.clinicaladvisor.com/flaws-in-patient-privacy-data-security-must-be-addressed/article/285062/>

[2] <http://www.clinicaladvisor.com/flaws-in-patient-privacy-data-security-must-be-addressed/article/285062/>