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The Myth of U.S. as 37th Best

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase president of Citizens’ Council on Health Care.

Ten years ago, the World Health Organization ranked U.S. health care as 37th best in the world. The island of San Marino took third. The Netherlands—Euthanasia Central—ranked 17th. Can’t be true. People flock to the U.S. because its care is first-rate.

Deep in the report, the organization admits America ranks number one in responsiveness to patients. But since we don’t centralize health care dollars and treatment decisions, we scored at 37th best.

Now we learn that these scores were imputed from as few as 30 actual estimates from 191 countries. The editor of the report says, “it is long past due for this zombie number to disappear from circulation.”¹ True, but a Google inquiry produces the statistic 832,000 times.

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¹ “The WHO’s Health System Rankings.” AAPS News, October 2010. (citing an article in The New England Journal of Medicine, April 22, 2010)


The Health Freedom Minute is heard weekdays in Minnesota at 7:03 a.m., 11:03 a.m., 2:03 p.m. and 5:03 p.m. on WWTC AM1280 The Patriot.