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Opposition to Obamacare Exchanges Slows Implementation

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

In February, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded seven state Health Insurance Exchange grants totaling $241 million dollars. Grantees must design data systems for the Exchange’s extensive data sharing requirements.

In several states, this grant is the money to nowhere. New York hasn’t passed legislation allowing an Exchange. Republicans in Oregon have stalled an Exchange. Kansas’ Governor has vetoed elements of an Exchange. And Oklahoma sent the $54 million grant back to the feds.

The Exchange is not a marketplace. It is a federal command and control structure over all health care. States are wise to refuse to establish in state law this key element of federal control.

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“Early Innovator States Struggling To Advance Insurance Exchanges,” iHealthBeat, June 1, 2011.