National Disease Surveillance Planned

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

In 2010, the Ontario government ran a surprising newspaper ad. They announced that the Ministry of Health would send doctors a report on the last time each diabetic citizen had been to the doctor for blood sugar and cholesterol testing, and a report on when the patients had their last eye exam. Canadians who didn’t want to be under government health surveillance had until June 11th last year to object and opt-out.

In the U.S., the Institute of Medicine recently suggested that government officials build a national disease surveillance system using government access to electronic patient medical records under HIPAA. Congress is already moving in this direction, giving doctors, hospitals and health plans $23 billion to build a National Health Information Network.

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