



Citizens' Council on Health Care

Health Freedom Minute

September 16, 2010

Sickle Cell Coercion in College Sports

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

The National Collegiate Athletic Association now requires every student in Division I college sports to be tested for sickle cell trait. As a result of a lawsuit related to a football player's death, the rules were changed last April with little public attention.

Now, as college begins, the controversy is emerging. First, this is compulsory genetic testing. Second, schools can test *prospective* students. Third, genetic privacy rights are at issue. Fourth, doctors at Johns Hopkins say schools have to figure out how to prevent future discrimination of these students.

Students can decline if they have already been tested or if they sign a waiver. However, if state newborn genetic screening programs are any indication, students will never be told they have a choice.

Find this broadcast at healthfreedomminute.net

*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.*