High-Risk Pools, Low Enrollment

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

Obamacare gave $5 billion dollars to states to insure the uninsurable through high-risk Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plans. Minnesota’s high-risk plan is called the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association, or “MCHA” (pronounced “em-cha”)

The Medicaid administration said 375,000 people would enroll in these plans this year. The Commonwealth Fund said 6 million people might be eligible. Some worried that $5 billion wasn’t enough.

Turns out that it was way too much. After three months, only 8,011 people have joined. Twenty states have fewer than 50 enrolled. The New York Times says finding the eligible isn’t easy. Well, maybe they aren’t interested. One Wisconsin official says they are committed to spending the entire $5 billion dollars. Amazing.

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