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Above: MN State Senator Warren Limmer (R) with Twila Brase

State Legislators are Calling CCHF

By Twila Brase, President and Co-founder

State legislators have been contacting CCHF for draft legislation, advice and amendments. With legislatures in session, we responded to requests from **Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming**. Our Model State Legislation Library (MSLL, “the missile”) is also available online.

A PASS AND A MISS: Rep. Sarah Penn in **Wyoming** introduced a bill to give doctors the freedom to prescribe FDA-approved medications for off-label purposes, such as ivermectin for COVID-19. CCHF testified by Zoom at the author’s request. The bill PASSED in the House, but not the Senate, where opposition from the health department, medical board and pharmacy board unfortunately derailed it.

“SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH”: A state representative

in **Oregon** contacted us to get our model “Freedom to Prescribe” legislation and to discuss “the dangers of the whole social determinants of health [SDOH] philosophy, and how to fight it.” He’d heard us at the Hazlitt Policy Summit speak about SDOH and its pervasiveness across all policy areas, from agriculture to education to transportation and more. I believe CCHF is the only organization fighting this Marxist construct.

REAL GENETIC PRIVACY: In late April, a **Montana** Senator contacted us asking for a review of his bill and suggested amendments. For several days, we went back and forth until he got the bill where he wanted it, which was a vast improvement on the “DNA grab” bill that the so-called Genetic Privacy Alliance is pushing in various states. As of this writing, it’s wait-

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Health Freedom Watch

Health Freedom Watch is published quarterly by Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt health care policy research and education organization.

CCHF's mission is to protect health care choices, individualized patient care and medical and genetic privacy rights.

CCHF does not endorse any health care treatment, provider, or product. Nothing in Health Freedom Watch should be construed as medical advice or legal counsel.

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Editors

Twila Brase, RN, PHN
Kristin Matheny, MPA

CCHF

161 St. Anthony Ave. Suite 923
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Tel: 651-646-8935
info@cchffreedom.org



ing on Governor Greg Gianforte's desk, passed by huge majorities in both the House and Senate. But big business is opposing it, so CCHF put out a nationwide alert calling on citizens to ask the Governor to "Sign the bill."

MINNESOTA MESS: Although we testified, met with DFL and GOP leaders, and offered amendment options, making inroads was virtually impossible. Democrats have a trifecta and moved far-left legislation forward in lockstep. CCHF did secure two small privacy wins on the cancer surveillance bill (notice of the patient's rights when government researchers contact them) and the Genetic Privacy Alliance bill, with the help of Sen. Warren Limmer (R) and **Rep. Peggy Scott (R)**, pictured on the right.

Democrats plan to take control of Minnesota's health care system. The Health and Human Services omnibus bill includes millions of dollars to advance a universal health care system, a "public option," and \$8.8M to fund a new Health Care Affordability Center to limit health care spending.

The 845-page bill also takes steps to oust health plans from the Medicaid program, to set up government as the direct payer, and to reduce "low value" care, according to their preferred definition.

LOUISIANA FREEDOM? At the request of Health Freedom Louisiana, we reviewed their "No Patient Left Alone" bill and offered advice. As of this writing it PASSED the state House but is having a hard

time in the Senate. Stay tuned.

HAZLITT COALITION: At their November 2022 event with a group of about 200 conservative legislators in the room, I presented on the "HIPAA Deception" and led a panel discussion with a panel of state legislators. I cannot thank you enough for giving us the support needed to help us advance health freedom across America!



Your gift is very much appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to Citizens' Council for Health Freedom, 161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste 923, St. Paul, MN 55103, 651-646-8935. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information directly from the state agency: CALIFORNIA – Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17510.3(a) FLORIDA – A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352 (800-HELP-FLA) WITHIN THE STATE OR BY VISITING www.800helpfla.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Registration (CH35276). GEORGIA - A full and fair description of the programs of Citizens' Council for Health Freedom and our financial statement summary is available upon request at the office and phone number indicated above. MARYLAND – For the cost of copies and postage, Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. MISSISSIPPI – The organization's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement. NEW JERSEY – INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charfrm.htm>. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. NEW YORK – Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. NORTH CAROLINA – FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. PENNSYLVANIA – The official registration and financial information of Citizens' Council for Health Freedom may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. VIRGINIA – Virginia State Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. WASHINGTON – Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, 1-800-332-4483. WEST VIRGINIA – Residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration with any of these state agencies does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by any state.



Twila Brase, RN, PHN, President & Co-founder, CCHFreedom.org

A Letter From The President

In August, we will celebrate our **25th anniversary** as a staff, and we'll celebrate it with you at our annual fundraising gala on this **September 7th**. Make plans now to join us in the Twin Cities for an inspiring evening.

Medicine is in trouble, but there's an easy way out: cash for most care. Patients and doctors need to see it, believe it, and choose it. Key legislation would speed the transition back to cash and catastrophic coverage, but we don't have to wait.

Health plans are the reason we're in trouble. Congress established the HMOs (aka health plans) to reduce spending and empowered them to ration care. Health plans have built powerful fiefdoms which Congress does not yet wish to eliminate.

Too many people think health plans are "the private market." Not so. Congress used laws and money to grow them (see my "**Blame Congress for HMOs**," 2001).

Consider Medicare Advantage. For many seniors, it looks good until they get sick and need expensive care. According to the HHS Office of Inspector General, **Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) have been rationing care for years.**

These health plans view the Medicare Advantage program as a 'cash cow.' They receive a lump sum payment per member per month (PM/PM) and are allowed to deny care based on their own definitions of "medical necessity." Current audits show enormous overbilling

and overpayments to MAOs — a huge transfer of taxpayer wealth to these plans.

A 2015 Medicare audit found widespread and persistent MAO denials of care and payment. A 2018 HHS OIG report found MAOs **overturn 75% of their denials but only if patients or doctors appeal. Given the administrative burden, only 1% of denials are appealed.** Concerns remain in the 2022 HHS OIG report:

"A central concern about the capitated payment model used in Medicare Advantage is the potential incentive for Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) to deny beneficiary access to services and deny payments to providers in an attempt to increase profits."

Indeed. But that's not all. Health plans are consolidating their control by purchasing physician practices. UnitedHealth Group, the nation's largest health plan, employs more than **60,000 physicians** who must comply with UHG's treatment protocols. No wonder more and more physicians regret becoming a doctor. Regret increased from 23% in 2014 to 43% in 2023.

Thank you for supporting our work to restore patient and doctor freedom by building a **parallel cash-based health care system**. You are essential to all we do!

Gratefully yours,

IN THE NEWS



March

"Sick in America" — Sam Rohrer, Stand in the Gap Today, 3/8/23

"Electronic Data Collection of Health Records" — American Family News At the Core with Walker Wildmon, 3/15/23

Commentary: "Minnesota Bill Would Restore the Doctor-Patient Relationship Corroded by Socialized Medicine" — Matt McGregor, The Epoch Times, 3/27/23

April

"Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Interview: Exposing HIPAA" — Shana Burt, Financial Issues Stewardship Ministries, 4/5/23

"CCHF's Exposing HIPAA Campaign" — Faune Riggan, Real Talk with Riggan, 4/13/23

"Exposing HIPAA: The Deliberate Deception" (op-ed) — Natasha Chernyavsky, Alpha News, 4/29/23

May

Commentary: "Minnesota Legislature Considers 'Trusted Doctor' Bill" — AnneMarie Schieber, Heartland Health Care News, 5/3/23

"The End of COVID" — Tom Roten, The Tom Roten Morning Show, 5/19/23



Conducting video interviews on HIPAA at the Minnesota State Fair

INCREASING OUR VISIBILITY AND MAKING WAVES

By Kristin Matheny, MPA, Communications Specialist

CCHF has long been a cornerstone in the fight for health freedom. I am the newest member of our staff and I'm excited to be part of this effort. As the battle for health freedom ramps up, CCHF's resolve to win strengthens.

We are resolved to protect doctor and patient freedom. This mission sounds simple, but it's essential for health freedom—and for freedom in America. Without health freedom, how can we be free?

In April, we launched a month-long campaign aptly named **"Exposing HIPAA: The Deliberate Deception."** This campaign was part of our ongoing effort to reach Americans long led to believe that the "HIPAA Privacy Rule" protects their confidential medical records. To counter this false belief, the CCHF team used the 20th anniversary of HIPAA (April 14, 2023)

to expose HIPAA as nothing more than a permissive data-sharing rule and a shameful hoax.

Part of our effort to expose HIPAA meant spreading that message near and far, and that starts with social media. We created a series of **Instagram Reels** and published daily HIPAA-themed informational posts. Twila's popular Facebook Live videos, in which she dispels HIPAA myths and reveals important patient privacy truths, continued to be a centerpiece of our social media strategy.

We are pleased to report that our strategy worked! With increased posting and carefully curated messages, we greatly expanded our visibility. Views of our Facebook "Exposing HIPAA" content were up **502%** from content published the previous month, and engagement increased by **436%**. On Insta-

gram, the numbers were just as impressive – content views were up 251% and content engagement was up 607%. Bold, consistent messaging led to tangible, powerful results. Our presence online is flourishing!

Beyond social media, Twila Brase, our president and co-founder, addressed the pitfalls of HIPAA in a special series of *Health Freedom Minutes*, heard on more than 870 radio stations every week day. From "HIPAA Allows Outsiders to Control Your Care" to "Deidentified Data is Not Protected Data," Twila dismantled misconceptions about HIPAA and the privacy Americans mistakenly believe it provides.

Informed Americans can help affect policy change by voting for people who will serve their best interests – not the interests of powerful corporations or

government entities who wish to use, exploit, or sell their data.

CCHF has furthered its visibility with outreach. This spring, Twila hit the road to speak with groups in Florida and Missouri. Back in Minnesota, she was a fixture at events in Plymouth, Hastings, Princeton, and throughout the greater Twin Cities area.

From our work to expose HIPAA to our efforts to restore patient consent rights and individual control over personal data, we've been making waves across the nation. People who hear our message are typically very surprised. They don't realize HIPAA and the electronic health record mandate are forcing everyone's medical data to be digitized and made available to outsiders.

We're also making waves with our **New Framework for Health Freedom**, which is a parallel system based on cash, confidentiality and affordability, starting with our online directory of direct-pay practices, The Wedge of Health Freedom® (JointheWedge.com).

Your financial support helps us make these critically necessary waves in pursuit of health freedom for all. **Thank you.**



Twila speaks with guests at an event in Florida



Speaking with some of the 200 attendees at the Covenant Life Church in Sarasota, FL



CCHF talked with Wellness Way staff, including Dr. Jules Efta, DC (left) and Founder and CEO Dr. Patrick Flynn, DC at a Wellness Way Event



Speakers DeEtta Moos, Tanya Simons, and Twila at Faith and Freedom Event



CCHF brings the message of a parallel system to "We the People" in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

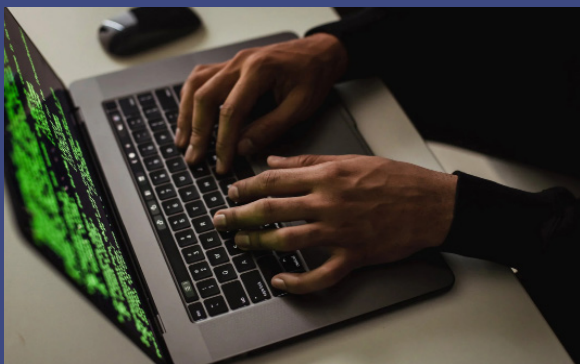


Twila and FISM Radio Host Shana Burt in North Carolina

RADIO: HEALTH FREEDOM MINUTE

CCHF's nationwide Minute is heard on more than 870 stations across America. Find our station list at cchfreedom.org and tune in every weekday wherever you live!

(To listen: www.healthfreedomminute.net)



Congress Made Your Health Data Vulnerable to Hackers

May 19, 2023

About 1 in 7 Americans had their health data breached in 2021 alone — a threefold increase in three years. The federal government is now offering free cybersecurity training for health care workers and forming new cybersecurity divisions. The agency is considering cybersecurity mandates. Meanwhile, in March, hackers broke into NextGen Healthcare, a cloud-based electronic health record system, and stole data on more than one million patients.

Who's to blame? Congress, that's who. Congress enacted HIPAA to digitize all health data, and required use of electronic health records so your data could be broadly shared. Congress made you and your medical data vulnerable to hackers. Until Congress reverses this, your data is up for grabs.

Source:

“The Pall Over the Health Ad Market,” Ruth Reader et al, Political Future Pulse, April 18, 2023: <https://bit.ly/3p-JD4L1>

In Case You Missed It

Big Brother in the Exam Room — Now an eBook

Stocking up on summer reading? Twila Brase's *Big Brother in the Exam Room* is available as an eBook on **June 7!** Just in time for your travels, purchase your copy at Amazon or Barnes and Noble online for immediate access on your favorite eReading device.



Meet CCHF's New Board Members



Mary Aszmann worked as an engineer for Honeywell and in other tech jobs. She turned her focus to her passion for marketing and was involved in launching several start-ups. Today, she uses her God-given gifts to bless others. Mary is married with 2 children, 2 step-children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.



Jeremy Munson lives on a farm with his wife and their 2 daughters. He served 3 terms on the Health Policy and Finance Committee in the Minnesota Legislature. He works as a self-employed business analyst in the financial services industry. He cares deeply about protecting freedom for future generations of Americans.



Keith Meyers is a retired Chief Financial Officer with decades in the building materials industry. Keith managed health care providers and plans for employees, so he is concerned about the negative changes he's witnessed within the industry. He is a longtime friend of CCHF and looking forward to serving on the Board.

Meet CCHF's New Communications Specialist



Kristin Matheny joins CCHF from Fort Lauderdale. She has a BA in English from Tulane University and a Master of Public Administration (MPA). Before joining CCHF, she served in communications management roles on the campaign trail, at a major news company, and at a large marketing agency. She is excited to bring visibility to a cause she is passionate about: medical freedom.

Save the Date!

 **CITIZENS' COUNCIL FOR HEALTH FREEDOM**

2023 Annual Fundraising Gala

OUR FIGHT TO STAY FREE

Keynote Speaker:
PETE HEGSETH
Fox News Host and New York Times Best Selling Author

Thursday, September 7 • 6:30 pm
Dinner & Program
Inwood Oaks • Oakdale, MN

Register by August 25 • bit.ly/CCHF2023Event
For details and table sponsorship opportunities: visit cchffreedom.org | 651-646-8935



 CELEBRATING 25th anniversary

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT CCHF!

You have options! You may use the donation envelope you'll find in this newsletter. Or you can make an online donation at www.cchffreedom.org. Click on "DONATE TODAY."

Thank you for investing in patient and doctor freedom!

IRA Giving: If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you may instruct your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to transfer up to \$100,000 directly (and tax-free) to Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

Note: A gift from an IRA does not produce a charitable contribution deduction, but fulfills some or all of your required minimum distribution (RMD) without increasing your taxable income.

For a donation of STOCK: please call us for instructions at 651-646-8935.

Is CCHF in your will? Please consider CCHF in your estate planning. If you have any questions, please contact us at: 651-646-8935 or info@cchffreedom.org.

Please make checks payable to/mail to:

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For additional information, including a sample letter for your IRA custodian, please contact us:

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**CCHF has received 501(c)3 non-profit status from the IRS.
CCHF has also received permission to solicit charitable donations in all 50 states.*



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OVERHEARD

“Isn’t it about time that the people who make the decisions about so much stuff in healthcare give us what we need, not what they think we need?”

**— Dr. Fred Pelzman,
MD 5/22/23**

“We don’t need another pinkie promise from a tech company that they’re going to safeguard our data.”

**— Sara Geoghegan, Attorney,
Electronic Privacy Information
Center, 5/1/23**

“We as doctors have become used to following guidelines, saying things that we know not to be the case because that has been handed down from high.”

— Dr. Simon Fox (UK), 4/30/23

“The medical elite may not want to admit it, but their current approach to achieving diversity has a steep cost and it is wrong to ask them to pay for it.”

**— Dr. Stanley Goldfarb, MD
4/22/23**

“The abuses of physicians are destroying our profession.”

**— Dr. Curtis G. Graham, MD
5/6/23**



“Face masks worked perfectly: to gaslight, frighten, and manipulate the public.”

-Dr. Simon Goddek, PhD, 5/5/23