Federal privacy regulations are nothing but a pain

A couple of things are pretty ob-

After listening to taxpayers and citizens at public meetings, people don't much like the new government regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, popularly known as

The other is, having their regulations in place, the federal bureaucrats have no intention of letting go. The so-called privacy lobby in Washington is far too strong to let that happen. And neither group much cares what we think out here.

After listening to voters in town after town on his 69-county "Listening Tour" of the 1st Congressional District, Rep. Jerry Moran said he is ready to try to do something about the law. The question is,

The HIPAA regulations, which



have cost the medical and insurance from groups worried about open industries billions thus far, sprang access to public records, but lately, from just two lines in a law, known then as the Kennedy-Kassebaum figure out that the new rules are a Bill after our own former U.S. Senator. That section authorized the secretary of Health and Human Ser- stems from the fact that the rules, vices to write regulations covering patient privacy rights.

sworn in too late to vote on it. The reaucrats who wrote them. privacy regulations did not go into effect for another seven years.

the average citizen has started to

It's likely that much of the trouble progeny of a two-sentence section of a seven-year-old law, occupy The law was passed in 1996, and most of a small book. No one under-Rep. Moran likes to note that he was stands them, save maybe the bu-

Supposedly, patients have the right to decide how their own infor-At first, the alarm came mostly mation is used. However, most hos-

pitals have stopped offering people the option of being included in a public directory or of having their name released to newspapers, radio stations, ministers and the like.

Some hospital administrators say they can't do that; others say their lawyers have advised them not to get involved. Stiff fines, up to \$10,000 per occurrence, have many in the health care industry scared.

Others may just have a personal bias against letting patient information out.

Federal officials say there are exceptions in the law for information to go to ministers and the press, for example, but most hospitals seem to be unaware of those. Hospitals can offer people a chance to be in a directory or have their name in a published list of patients so their friends will know where they are, but it's just not happening.

Hospitals and nursing homes are ing, he said, it's mostly because supposed to work with people and tell them whether they have, say, your mother, but many don't know or don't care. They are scared of breaking the law.

And ordinary people, citizens, voters, are unhappy.

But what to do about it? That's Rep. Moran's problem.

There's little chance the rules will be repealed. The people who put them there stand in the way. The bureaucrats actually think they have done something wonderful.

Richard M. Campanelli, director of the Office of Civil Rights at Health and Human Service, spoke this month to members of the National Newspaper Association. He defended the regulations, saying they gave people power over their own medical records.

To the extent that's not happen- Newspapers.

people don't understand the new rules. How the average person, in or out of the medical field, could understand, is a question he avoids.

The rules may have been written to correct some real problems, but like most federal regulations, they do far more.

They push government control into every corner of the health industry. Nursing homes, hospitals, doctors and pharmacists, all have spent untold hours and untold billions trying to comply.

In an era when health care costs are soaring, why is the government doing this?

To help us, of course.

We may not like it, but the people in Washington plainly do not care. They think they know best. — Mr. Haynes is co-owner of Nor'West

fax rules could cause sma

The government is helping folks again — helping put us out of busi-

As part of the Do-Not-Call law, the Federal Communications Commission amended its regulations to restrict the use of faxes for business.

The commission ruled that no one can send a fax with advertising information on it without having the written permission of the person to whom it is sent. This permission is good for three years.

You can't get permission by faxing someone a sheet. It has to be mailed to them, even if they have



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

asked that you send them informa- eling and want bids from two or

Advertising information can be as little as your letterhead with a logo or slogan.

If you decide to do a little remod-

three contractors, they won't be able to fax you the information.

If you want to send a bill to a customer who asks you to fax it to them, you couldn't unless you had their written permission to fax them first. If you wanted the proof of an ad, a copy of a legal document, a bill, a bid, a purchase order, a set of plans or just about anything other than a

faxing you written permission. Worse yet, if you run a commercial fax business, you are liable for what other people send out on your

you'd better have sent the person

The government, in its infinite wisdom, has put off implementation of this rule until January. However, after that violators can be sued

for up to \$1,500 per fax.

In the cities, lawyers are gathering unsolicited faxes and paying \$2 each with the understanding that they can sue the sender and collect junk up your e-mail for free? letter from your grandmother, any damages for themselves.

What does all this mean?

It'll cost everyone more to do business. That means that it'll cost the consumers more for goods and services. Businesses will not be able to give the kind of service that they should be able to provide because they'll be afraid of being sued.

And for what? Who gets so many faxes that they feel threatened by

the overload? Once, before e-mail spam, there were a lot of junk faxes. But now, why would anyone spend money sending faxes when they can

This is another example of the government offering a steam shovel to swat a fly which has already flown off.

And, of course, the government will be exempt from the rules. As

'We're from the government. We're here to help you." — Mrs. Haynes is co-owner of Nor'West

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau









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MARCH 30 - APRIL 5 EEKDAYS

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	News		Good Morning America				Mak- eover	Mak- eover	The View		Holly- wood	News
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News Cor	nt'd	Today						Live With and Kelly	Regis	Martha St Living	ewart
KBSL/CBS	News				The Early	Show	The 700 C	lub	The Price	Is Right	The Youn Restless	g and the
K15CG	World News	Priscilla- Yoga	Body Electric	Caillou	Boohbah	Barney- Friends	Dragon Tales	Lions	Sesame S	treet	Clifford- Red	Teletub- bies
WGN (13)	Creflo A. Dollar Jr.	Believer Voice	Celebrity Justice	Hillbil- lies	Hillbil- lies	Happy Days	Matlock		In the Hea	t of the	Rockford	Files
NICK 29	Oddpar- ents	Rocket Power	Rugrats	Spon- geBob	Max & Ruby	Rubba- dubbers		Blue's Clues		Blue's Clues	Little Bill	Maggie- Beast
FAM 30	Digimon- Digital	Bey- blade	Power Rangers	Digimon- Digital	Growing Pains	Living the Life	The 700 C	lub	7th Heave	n	Full House	Growing Pains
USA (31)	Varied Pr	ograms	Nash Bridges	Varied	Movie		•	Varied Pr	ograms			
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie				Dawson's	Creek	Dawson's	Creek	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell
TNT (38)	The Lost	World	The Prete	nder	Charmed		ER		ER		Judging A	Amy
DSC (42)	Varied	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Assignme Discovery		Varied Pro	ograms	Designer Guys	Designer Guys	Rally Rou House	nd the
A&E (47)	Varied Pr	ograms	Movie	•			Murder, S	he Wrote	Murder, S	he Wrote	City Confi	idential
ESPN (49)	SportsCe	nter	Sports- Center	Varied	SportsCe	nter	SportsCe	nter	Sports- Center	Varied	Sports- Center	Varied
HBO (7)	Movie Cont'd	Movie	Varied Pro	grams	•		•		•	-	•	•
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	The Wiggles	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	Rolie Polie	Out of the Box	PB&J Otter	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles
MAX	Movie Co	nt'd	Varied	Movie	Varied Pro	ograms						

WEEKDAYS MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	All My Chi	ildren	en One Life to Live		General Hospital Dr. Phil			Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC WId News		
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Family Feud	Days of O	Days of Our Lives		Passions Inside Family Edition Feud		Family Feud	Million- aire	Jeop- ardy!	News	NBC News	
KBSL/CBS	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light Th		The People's Court		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News	
K15CG 3	Reading Rainbow	Mister Rogers				George Shrinks	Beren. Bears	Liberty's Kids	Cyber- chase	Arthur	Zoom	Busi- ness	
WGN 13	News		In the Hea Night	t of the	Street Smarts	Street Smarts	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Will & Grace	
NICK 29	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer	Rugrats	Rugrats	Varied Programs			Spon- geBob	Amanda	U-Pick	U-Pick		
FAM 30	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	by So Little Full 7th Heav			n	Switche- d!	Knock First	Full House	Full House	
USA 31)	Varied Pro	grams							Walker, Texas Ranger		Texas Ranger	Varied	
TBS 37	Cosby	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	
TNT 38	Law & Ord	der	NYPD Blu	е	NYPD Blu	е	Judging Amy		Angel		Charmed		
DSC (42)	Surprise b	y Design	Surprise b	y Design	Rally Rou House	nd the	Double A	gents	Varied Pro	ograms			
A&E (47)	American	Justice	Movie				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential		
ESPN 49	Varied Programs								Around the Horn			nter	
HBO (7)	Movie Varied Programs									Movie			
DISN 17	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	Winnie- Pooh	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	
MAX (21)	Movie Cont'd Varied Programs							Varied Programs				Movie	

THURSDAY APRIL

	6 PM	6 :3 0	7 PM	7:3 0	8 PM	8:3 0	9 PM	9:3 0	10 PM	10 :3 0	11 PM	11 :3 0
KLBY/ABC	(5:59) Ne ws	Ent. Tonight	Extreme N Home Edi		Extreme N (N) (CC)	lake ove r	Peter Jennings Reporting		Ne ws (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Ki Tesla. (N)	mmel Live (CC)
KSNK/NBC 8 9	Ne ws		Friends (CC)	Will & Grace			ER The Student (N) (CC)		News The Tonig		ht Show	Late Night (N)
KBSL/CBS	Ne ws (CC)	Friends (CC)	Survivor: (N) (CC)	All-Stars			Without a Trace Doppelganger (CC)		News (CC) Late Show Johnson; I			Late Late
K15CG 3	The News With Jim		Sun- flower	Kansas Spotlight	The New This Old House Hour (CC) Frontline Ghosts of R the worst atrocities of				Charlie Rose (N) (CC)			
WGN (13)	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		nsenting A evin Kline. (2 (1992,	News (CC)		Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi- date (N)	The 5th Wheel
NICK 29	Rugrats (CC)	Spon- ge Bob	Oddpar- e nts	Grown Up	Full House	Full House	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show
FAM 30	7th Heaven Time to Leave the Nest (CC) Movie: Babe **** (becomes a champion						Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
USA (31)	JAG Adrift 2) (CC)	JAG Adrift (Part 2 of 2) (CC) Law & Order: Special Victims					re ★★ (199) er become:					
TBS 37	Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC)	Movie: The Mummy ★★★ (1999, Horror) Fo explorers become wrapped up with an evil m				nummy. explorers become wrapped up with an evil mummy.					
TNT 38	Law & Ord Imperfect	der Past	NBA Bask Mavericks.	te tba ll: Sac . American	ramento Ki Airlines Cer	ngs at Dalla nter. (Live)	is (CC)		re tba ll: Hou aples Cente			ngeles
DSC 42	New Dete		Lost in the High Dese		Who Was (CC)	Moses?	Extreme A High-wire		Lost in the High Dese		Who Was (CC)	Moses?
A&E 47)	Ame rican Trial of Ed			Files The e Monster;			With Malice The Bigger the Lie (CC)		Third Watch The Price of Nobility (CC)		Cold Case Files (CC)	
ESPN 49		asketball: I nced. New \		Colle ge Basketball: Slam Dunk & Thr Point Contest. San Antonio. (CC)			Three- SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Outside- Lines	Base ball Tonight		
HBO 7	Movie: Mission: Impossible Adventure) Tom Cruise, Jon					vie: The Silence of the Lambs **** 191, Suspense) Jodie Foster. (CC)			Real Sex 30: Down and Dirty (CC)		De adwood Deep Water (CC)	
DISN 17	Lizzie McGuire		That's- Raven	That's- Raven	Barbar- ian	Barbar- ian	Lilo & Stitch	Lilo & Stitch	Kim Possible	Kim Possible	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX ②1	(5:00) Movie:					2002) Childhood Novie: Scooby-Doo (2002) Freddie Prinze						

FRIDAY APRIL 2

	1				_		1			1			
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	George Lopez	The Big House	Hope & Faith	Life With Bonnie	The D.A. (N) (CC)		News Nightline (CC)		Jimmy Kimmel Live Chris Klein. (N) (CC)		
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News	Wheel of Fortune	Dateline N	IBC (CC)			Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News The Tonig		ht Show	Late Night (N)	
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joan of Arcadia Do the Math (N) (CC) JAG Hard Core (N) (CC) (DVS)						News (CC)	Late Show	v (CC)	Late Late	
K15CG 3	The News With Jim I		Wash. Week	Wall- Fortune	Market- Market	Kansas Week	Jews & Christians: A Journey of Faith		BBC World	Red Green	Charlie Ro (CC)	ose (N)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.	Movie: Lo Comedy-D	ve at Large rama) Tom	e ★★½ (199 Berenger.	90,	News (CC)		Becker (CC)	Becker Chris' Ex	Elimi- date (N)	The 5th Wheel	
NICK 29	Rugrats (CC)	Spon- geBob	Oddpar- ents	Spon- geBob	Oddpar- ents	Spon- geBob	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
FAM 30	7th Heave Harlot (CC				itdoors ★★ d, John Cai		Whose Line?	Whose Line? The 700 Club (CC)			Paid Program	Paid Program	
USA 31)	Law & Order		aining Day with a corru				Touching 30 (N) (CC	ching Evil Slash Law & Order: Special Victims			Touching Evil Slash 30 (CC)		
TBS 37)	Seinfeld Pilot (CC)	Friends (CC)			here Art Tl a) <i>George</i> (Movie: 0 (2000, Cor	ovie: O Brother, Where Art Thou? *** 000, Comedy-Drama) George Clooney.				Movie: Raising Arizona ★★★ (1987)	
TNT 38	Law & Ord Ice (CC) (I				(2001, Drar (iTV Premie			Movie: Hardball ★½ (2001, Drama) Reeves, Diane Lane. (iTV) (CC)			A) Keanu Movie: Sweet November (2001)		
DSC (42)	Monster H House (CC		Street Rad Pedal to the		American Tool Bike		American (CC)	Hot Rod		Street Racing: Pedal to the Metal		American Chopper Tool Bike 2 (CC)	
A&E (47)	American It's Not My						01, Romano lager. <i>Nicol</i>		Third Watch Welcome to Camelot		Movie: Captain Corelli's Mandolin		
ESPN 49	Sports- Center	NBA			v York Knic nes Arena.			sey SportsCenter (Live) ((CC)	Outside- Lines	Baseball Tonight	
HBO	(4:45) Mov Majestic (Deadwood Deep Water (CC) On the Record (Season Premier			Movie: Next of Kin ★★½ (1989) (CC)		
DISN 17)	That's- Raven	Lizzie McGuire		pector Ga nch Stewar	dget 2 ★★ t. (CC)	Recess (CC)	Barbar- ian	That's- Raven	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	

Movie: The Tuxedo ★ 1/2 (2002) A souped-

(5:45) Movie: The

Bedtime

Movie: Biker Boyz (2003) A young man