Quality is Our Bottom Line

Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
January 31, 2007

Testimony regarding:

HB 6839 AAC Health Information Technology.

SB 88 AA Requiring Electroncic Medical Records.

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans is pleased to offer testimony with respect to HB 6839 AAC Health Information Technology and SB 88 AA Requiring Electronic Medical Records.

Adoption of an electronic medical record system is seen as a key component to improving the delivery and quality of health care services nationwide. Toward that end, the Association supports the intent of the legislation under consideration.

Health plans have long promoted the efficiencies of electronic record keeping, be it in claims processing or other venues. In fact, almost every health plan in the state has been participating in eHealth Connecticut, a non-profit venture backed by a collaboration of statewide local and regional health care institutions whose mission it is to "create, champion and sustain a secure, statewide health information exchange that will dramatically improve the safety, efficiency and quality of health care in Connecticut."

The devil is most certainly in the details with any proposal of this magnitude. From the perspective of the health plans, security and HIPAA compliance are the foremost concerns and we would be pleased to lend our expertise and experience to the discussion around the adoption of an electronic medical record system moving forward. It is our hope that the Committee will invite a wide range of participation by the health insurers in future deliberations be it by virtue of the process laid out in the bills noted above or by any other initiative.

We look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead as you seek to move these proposals forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

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