

## TESTIMONY

**Department of Information Technology  
State of Connecticut  
Before the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**

**March 15, 2007**

Chairpersons Handley, Villano and Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee; my name is Steve Casey, Director of Business Development for Healthcare, Human Services and Education for the Department of Information Technology (DOIT).

I would like to speak in favor of H.B.1127, "An Act Concerning the Charter Oak Health Plan and Health Care Access" and, specifically, to Section 7.

DOIT provides technology services for executive branch agencies and is in support of forums that promote enterprise collaboration and solutions. To quote Diane Wallace, Chief Information Officer, "DOIT is always looking for opportunities to leverage shared technology solutions among the different state agencies, and we believe this task force will provide further opportunities for the State to do just that."

We applaud the Governor's support of a forum to convene an electronic health information technology task force to develop and provide recommendations to the Governor on the impact of sharing electronic health information.

The task force would provide a high level steering committee to set the future course for the State of Connecticut to utilize the benefits of technology to improve the delivery of health care.

It would be comprised of a cross section of representatives from the public and private sectors including

- consumers;
- providers;
- academia;
- employers;
- health information exchange organizations;
- municipalities and
- state agencies including DSS, DPH, DMR, DMHAS, DCF, DVA, DOIT, DCP, the Insurance Department, UConn Health, OPM and the Comptroller.

The task force would be charged with

- researching and examining the impact of the electronic use of health information to improve the quality and efficiency of health information exchange;

- inventorying the various public and private health information technology initiatives currently underway in Connecticut;
- identifying the appropriate role of state government in the development, use and regulation;
- assessing the impact of health information on the state's roles as payor, provider, purchaser, regulator and employer and recommend changes;
- developing an overall state health information technology policy;
- developing options for advancing the implementation of health information technology through the state's roles as payor, provider, purchaser, regulator and employer and identify opportunities and strategies for public and private collaboration; and
- developing policy options for the advancement of the implementation of health information technology including projected costs and sources of funding.

This task force is a well thought out, comprehensive approach to set goals on the electronic health information technology for the benefit of Connecticut's citizens. DOIT welcomes the opportunity to be involved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present DOIT's views on these proposals and I welcome any questions.