



# THE CONNECTICUT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Senator Mary Ann Handley  
Representative Peggy Sayers  
Members of the Public Health Committee

Re: *SB 088 An Act Requiring Electronic Medical Records*

Dear Sen. Handley, Rep. Sayers, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee,

The Connecticut Psychological Association is writing in reference to *An Act Requiring Electronic Medical Records*.

While we support the State's efforts to electronically integrate medical records, we must also urge that care be taken in any similar legislation in order to protect the privacy of psychological as well as physical health records.

On the federal level, it is clear that the HIPPA Privacy Rule has begun to address the need for confidentiality in medical treatment; Connecticut's legislation must continue to protect patient privacy, especially in the field of psychological and psychiatric services. Constituents who seek mental health services are particularly vulnerable to both personal and professional discrimination and stigmatization. In addition, one essential factor in the provision of effective psychological or behavioral treatment is that of confidentiality. Without doubt, the need for privacy in mental health records is crucial.

We therefore advocate that legislation such as *SB 088* carefully address and promote patient privacy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bunk, Ph.D.  
Legislative Co-Chair