



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 16, 2009

Meg Hooper, Chief, Planning Branch (860) 509-7218

Senate Bill 782 - An Act Promoting The Use Of Health Information Technology

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 782.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health appreciates the state's need to coordinate the widely-diverse, technologically-complex health information exchange systems currently operating in Connecticut.

Public Act 07-2 authorized the Department, in consultation with the Office of Health Care Access to contract through a competitive bidding process for the development of a state-wide health information technology plan by July 1, 2009. This contract was awarded to the consultant firm of John Snow, Inc. The Department opposes this bill in light of the legislative and fiscal support provided to the Department in 2007 to develop the strategic plan to facilitate a coordinated, operable, and appropriate exchange of health information in Connecticut. It would be prudent to refer to that plan for specific strategies and recommendations for promoting the use of health information technology.

Currently, the Department is preparing the final draft of the "Connecticut Health Information Technology Plan" together with John Snow, Inc. and the Department's "Health Information Exchange and Technology Steering Committee". The Committee includes representatives from the Connecticut Office of Health Care Access, the Connecticut Department of Social Services, the Connecticut Department of Information Technology, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Connecticut Health Services, Inc., and the Connecticut Health Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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