

*Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services Cluster*

Aetna  
AXA-Equitable  
ConnectiCare  
Department of Economic &  
Community Development  
GlobeOp Financial  
The Hartford Financial  
Services Group  
Hartford Steam Boiler  
Inspection & Insurance  
Company/AIG  
ING Group  
InSource, LLC  
Insurity  
KPMG  
MassMutual  
MetLife  
MetroHartford Alliance  
NewAlliance Bank  
Northeast Utilities  
People's United Bank  
The Phoenix Companies  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Prudential  
Savings Bank Life  
Insurance  
Sovereign Bank  
Sun Life Financial  
TD Banknorth  
Travelers Companies  
UBS Wealth Management  
UnitedHealth  
Group/Uniprise  
United Illuminating  
Webster Bank  
XL Insurance

**Statement on Behalf of  
Connecticut's Insurance and Financial Services Cluster**

Regarding

***House Bill 782: AA Promoting the Use of  
Health Information Technology***

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2009

The Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services Cluster is generally in support of raised bill, An Act Promoting the Use of Health Information Technology.

Two billion dollars has been allocated as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [ARRA] to promote the adoption and use of health information technology. HB 782 allows Connecticut to be positioned to receive the funding by designating eHealth Connecticut to be the statewide health information exchange network. According to the bill, eHealth Connecticut would work with statewide business leaders, providers, and employers, along with other stakeholders, to build a shared-use health care data system. This type of technology infrastructure could enable consumers to access appropriate cost and quality information about health plans, hospitals, and physicians. It could also include data on best practice guidelines and benchmarks for providers and improve the efficiency of patient information amongst providers thereby improving patient safety, quality of diagnosis and outcomes.

It's important that I stress the importance of including the private sector in the process. eHealth Connecticut should also recognize the contributions of the Connecticut Health Insurance Policy Council and the Connecticut HealthFirst Authority's recommendations into its plan. The addition of business practicum within eHealth Connecticut will ensure its success.

Additionally, eHealth Connecticut must include the use of nationally recognized interoperability and privacy standards and should be "no less stringent" than the standards expressed under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

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Connecticut insurers employ over 68,000 people and indirectly support over 91,000 jobs in other sectors. SB 782 provides the necessary framework for Connecticut to receive the ARRA funding, allowing for the continued growth of its health care sector and for strengthening its position as a leader in U.S. health plans for quality, access and customer satisfaction.

Thank you for your support of Senate Bill 782.

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