



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES March 2, 2010

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House Bill 5354 - An Act To Provide Incentives for Hospitals To Adopt Electronic Health Records

The Department of Public Health has the following concerns with House Bill 5354.

CGS 19a-25g designates the Department of Public Health (DPH) as the lead health information exchange organization for the State of Connecticut. This designation was a mandatory component of DPH's pending application for \$7.29 million in federal funds pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It is anticipated that the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will announce the state's funding award in the next several weeks.

House Bill 5354 removes the DPH as the lead health information exchange organization for the state and it fails to designate a replacement entity as the lead organization. While the intent of the bill is unclear with respect to designating a lead health information organization for the state, it is clear that this proposal will have a negative impact on DPH's pending application for federal stimulus funds. In addition, the proposal will result in confusion within the state's health information technology community, and will impede the considerable progress achieved since the enactment of Public Act 09-232.

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



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