



*Quality is Our Bottom Line*

**Connecticut Association of Health Plans**

**Testimony in Opposition to**

**HB 5329 AA Eliminating the Inclusion of a Physician's Personally Identifiable Information from Health Insurance Claim Forms.**

**Insurance Committee Public Hearing**

**Thursday, February 17, 2011**

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully urges opposition to HB 5329. It's important to understand that the Physician's National Provider ID Number is not a substitute for their Social Security Number. They are really two different numbers used for two different purposes. Insurers are required to collect the payee's federal taxpayer ID number for all claims paid in order to make accurate reports to the IRS. A taxpayer ID number is either a SSN or an EIN (Employer ID Number). Some physicians use more than one taxpayer ID number – and some simply use their Social Security Number.

The CMS-mandated claim forms require the taxpayer ID number so that it is clear which taxpayer is receiving the money so that the IRS can determine tax liability. If insurers aren't provided with a taxpayer ID, they will be required to withhold 28% of the claim amount and send it to the IRS since the IRS does not recognize national provider ID numbers.

HB 5329 is ill advised and runs contrary to federal CMS requirements. We therefore urge its rejection.

Many thanks for your consideration.