

# Fairfield County Medical Association

*Physicians Dedicated to a Healthier Fairfield County*

317 Bridgeport Avenue • Shelton, CT 06484 • Tel 203-513-2045 • Fax 203-513-8036  
Email info@fcoma.org • Website www.fcoma.org



## Memorandum of Support

**FTR**

March 7, 2012

Re: H B 5387- An Act Concerning Health Insurance Claim Forms

To Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

The disclosure of Social Security (SSN) and Employer Identification (EIN) numbers in private and government transactions increases the potential for identity theft. Therefore, any opportunity to limit the use of social security numbers and substitute other identifiers should be given high priority.

Just as Connecticut has already prohibited health insurers from using SSNs as the patient's identifier number on insurance ID cards, so too should the insurers be prohibited from requiring providers to use their SSN on health insurance claim forms. Not all providers, particularly solo practitioners, have a federal EIN, and instead they use the SSN in its place.

Providers are at great risk for identity theft because as it currently stands most, if not all, commercial health insurers require the inclusion of a physician's SSN or EIN in box 25 on the universally accepted CMS-1500 claim form. Since physicians have been required to obtain a federally mandated National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, and all Medicare carriers have been required to accept the NPI numbers since April 2007, the need for the physicians' SSN or EIN on the claim form is no longer necessary.

It is a fact the federal office of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has prohibited the use of the SSN on Medicare claims, effective April 1, 2007.

The state can help further protect physicians and other providers from identity theft by prohibiting commercial insurers from requiring an SSN or EIN in box 25 of the CMS-1500, as they too will be able to cross-reference all claims paid to a particular NPI number with an associated SSN or EIN for purposes of generating the IRS-1099 form.

Contrary to what you may have been told, the continued requirement for the use of a provider's SSN in box 25 of the CMS 1500 claim form is a state issue, and the threat of identity theft is real.