

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING

February 27, 2013

**Testimony in Opposition to House Bill No. 5737
An Act Concerning the Use of Patient Health Care Information
in the All-Payer Claims Database Program**

Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. ("Delta Dental") respectfully urges the Committee's rejection of Proposed Bill No. 5737 - - An Act Concerning the Use of Patient Health Care Information in the All-Payer Claims Database Program.

This bill is well intended, designed to inform patients that some of their health care information will be forwarded to the all-payer claims database as described in Section 19a-724 of the general statutes. Too, the provision for "opt out" is well intended as it would allow patients to decline to have their own claims included in the database.

However, implementation would be cost prohibitive and would impair the value of the database. First, providers would need to track the requests on a patient-by-patient basis - - and potentially a procedure-by-procedure basis - - to identify which data was to be included and which was not. Second, the payers reporting the data would need to program their data systems to remove certain data from the reports otherwise required to be filed, in essence generating "two sets of data" within their system - - complete and incomplete datasets, with the incomplete data transmitted to the database. The selective withholding of data by individuals would inevitably and importantly compromise the value and validity of the database.

Since the database by law must preserve the confidentiality of the data and assure that individuals are not identified, this measure (though well intentioned) is not necessary. If there is concern as to whether the database data will actually be confidential, then the database itself should be revisited. We assume that the database is secure and that this added measure is unnecessary, will have an adverse impact on the data, and will impose an undue and substantial cost on the payers (and providers).

We urge your rejection of Proposed Bill No. 5737.