



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**February 24, 2016**

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill #130 An Act Concerning Patient Information and the All-Payer Claims Database**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to Senate Bill 130.

This bill mandates the all-payers database exchange to develop and implement a form which will allow individuals that receive health care services to opt out of having their services reported to the all-payers claims database.

The all-payers claims database was put in place to collect, assess and report health care information from payers of all levels of health care services. The database will provide for transparency in health care costs and quality that allows entities such as consumers, state agencies and employers to make informed health care decisions. The database will also assist in identifying gaps in, inequitable distribution of and access to health care services. It is critical that the database include information from all patients that access health care services to allow for accurate data assessments without gaps that could affect the quality of the information being provided to consumers, state agencies and employers.

It is DPH's opinion that the all-payer claims database cannot achieve its mandates to provide individuals with pertinent health care information if not all information is available. Allowing patients to opt out of the database would jeopardize the usefulness and integrity of the information being provided. In addition, developing and implementing a work-around to account for the health care consumers who opt out would create a significant financial burden.

It is important to note that the APCD has strict patient privacy protections in place to ensure that health information is securely managed. All data released will be de-identified and subject to a rigorous application and data use agreement process.