



*Written Testimony for the Public Health Committee
February 24, 2016*

S.B. No. 130 AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT INFORMATION AND THE ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE

This bill requires the state's Health Insurance Exchange, Access Health CT, to develop and implement the usage of a form allowing those receiving any type of health care service the option to have the related data and information excluded from the contracted entity which reports to the all-payer claims database (APCD).

It is important to be aware of a consumer's choices and privacy. However, the information the APCD collects is transformed and there is no personal information associated with it. The purpose of the APCD is to collect data from all payers of health care services in order to provide an open and transparent centralized database that will allow a variety of stakeholders, including consumers, to have access to quality, utilization, and cost information for all levels of health care. When fully implemented, the APCD will allow consumers to make more informed decisions about their health care by enabling comparison shopping for coverage. State agencies and other entities will also be able to use the data to make information-based policy and administrative decisions regarding the provision of health care. Finally, state government and other employers who pay for health care services will also be able to more easily achieve cost efficiencies, while preserving or enhancing health care quality.

The effectiveness and success of the APCD is dependent upon collecting health care services data from all payers. Allowing consumers to opt-out of the APCD, as proposed in SB 130, will greatly limit the benefits that can be derived from this health care tool, and will not allow the data to be truly representative of the state's health care consumers' experiences.

As a member of the Access Health CT Board of Directors, DSS has been a part of the planning and development of the APCD. Pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the Board, data can only be made public by the APCD "when disclosed in a form or a manner that is consistent with HIPAA regarding the safeguarding of Protected Health Information and the de-identification of data, and in compliance with state and federal data security and confidentiality requirements." In addition, "the Exchange shall institute appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards that are consistent with HIPAA security rules, including those contained in 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C, to ensure that data received from Reporting Entities is securely collected, compiled and stored."

For these reasons, the Department is not in support of this bill.