



Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

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Testimony of

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Supporting

*HB 7131: An Act Concerning the Entity Established to Implement the Program
Expediting Development of the State-Wide Health Information Exchange*

Public Health Committee

February 25, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 7131: An Act Concerning the Entity Established to Implement the Program Expediting Development of the State-Wide Health Information Exchange.

On behalf of the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHCACT), and its sixteen member federally-qualified health centers, I want to thank the Committee for raising this bill. Connecticut's federally-qualified health centers serve almost 400,000 people each year, providing medical, behavioral health and dental care in over 100 locations across the state.

CHCACT supports this bill, which would allow for an expansion of the Board of the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) to expand, to include appropriate representation from a variety of stakeholders. CHCACT supports this concept, and also asks for an appointment to this Board.

The goal of a health information exchange is to compile health care data from a variety of sources in one place, to empower consumers, providers and other stakeholders. Although health care providers across the country have made strides in digitizing health information (including clinical and claims data), unfortunately, these data are fragmented across several different electronic health records systems. For example, here in Connecticut, the state's 17 health centers utilize about a half dozen electronic health records systems. A statewide HIE will help bring that information together in one place.

Having appropriate input on the Board of the statewide HIE is critical to ensuring it is developed, implemented and administered to the best of the State's ability, with a variety of stakeholders in mind. Having a representative from CHCACT on this Board will ensure that the voice of the health centers – and their 400,000 patients – adds to these important conversations. CHCACT strongly supports the passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on behalf of Connecticut residents. Please feel free to reach out with any questions: dpolun@chcact.org or 860.667.7820.