



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony Regarding  
Senate Bill 812 An Act Concerning Electronic Health Records and  
Health Information Exchange  
Submitted by Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy  
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut  
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Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents.

We recognize that this bill is modeled after CurrentCare in Rhode Island, where aggressive adoption of electronic health records and the state health information exchange is facilitated by the Rhode Island Quality Institute.

Adoption of electronic health records by providers and sharing of information across technology platforms via a state health information exchange is a critical component of managing population health and moving towards better health outcomes for all.

In Connecticut, efforts to share health information have been slow to evolve, despite significant federal investment in Health IT. Our most recent attempt (HITE-CT) failed outright. Now the State Innovation Model (SIM) Health Information Technology Council is charged with working on the exchange of health information between providers.

We advise legislators to craft this bill, and the "Health IT Trust Fund" it creates, to learn from our past mistakes, pay attention to current efforts that are underway, such as the work being undertaken by Connecticut's SIM project, as well as integrate the work of this proposal into the larger health system reform occurring in the state.

In fact, we advise legislators to go even further with this idea and other proposals being heard today.

Connecticut faces numerous challenges as it strives to address the need for access to high-quality, affordable health care that improves health for all state residents. The bills you are hearing today address many current challenges, but they are either short-term responses or do not coordinate and leverage existing efforts and investments to help us achieve long-term, sustainable solutions. Even worse, some bills may create unintended consequences.

**I urge you to watch Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's short video testimony and check out our complete written testimony and supporting resources on the web at: [bit.ly/uahcf-legislative](http://bit.ly/uahcf-legislative)**

We can learn much from other states, such as Massachusetts, Vermont, Oregon and Washington—all of which have an "authority" of some sort that brings together health care planning and policymaking to best serve the health care interests of each state. These states are trying to look at the whole picture. We do not have a coordinated, cohesive approach in Connecticut and it is to the detriment of the families, businesses, communities and taxpayers of this state.

What we really need is an omnibus bill that incorporates components of this bill, Senate Bills 810, 811, 813, 814, 815 and 916, as well as House Bill 6938—and possibly more ideas. We ask legislative leaders to work to craft a bill with input from stakeholders including consumers, providers and payers. We believe that such a bill can build on positive current work being done in Connecticut and help realize visionary, strategic and sustainable solutions to our shared health care challenges.