



Testimony Regarding H.B. 5415: An Act Concerning the Collection and Usage of Health Care Data

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Public Health Committee
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Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, Representative Betts, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Karen Siegel, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that all Connecticut children have an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We support enabling the Office of Health Strategy to promote policies to integrate health systems and data in Connecticut. The Office of Health Strategy is well situated to improve cross-agency coordination of health systems and services, improve data integration, and generate holistic analyses of the state's efforts to promote health equity. Over the long-term, an integrated data network will increase efficiency in how the state accesses and analyses data and may save costs, including staff time spent responding to freedom of information and email requests. An annual inventory of available data could potentially facilitate efforts by researchers and advocates to request information in order to understand and evaluate the health of Connecticut's population and the effectiveness of health policies. The proposed bill requests that the Office of Health Strategy report annually on the usage of the data it collects; it is worth noting that data may be routinely collected, but only analyzed in aggregate over a multi-year period.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding H.B. 5415. I can be reached with any questions at ksiegel@ctvoices.org or at 203-498-4240, ext. 120.