MN Business Groups Want to Control Your Doctor

COMMITTEE HEARING – Wednesday, Feb. 20th at 2:30pm
House Committee on Health and Human Services Policy
Room 200 State Office Building

HF 831 – Rep. Halverson (D-51B) - Chief Author
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Bill to Repeal Consent Rights:
HF 831 eliminates patient-consent requirements for data sharing Minnesotans currently have in the MN Health Records Act (MHRA) – the nation’s strongest patient consent law. (M.S. 144.291 - 144.298).
The business community, health data industry and the MN Dept. of Health (MDH) are pushing to allow broad sharing of personally identifiable patient data without consent — as permitted by the federal HIPAA rule. As David Brailer, the former National Coordinator of Health IT remarked about health information sharing under HIPAA: “You can't force a covered entity to give your data to someone you choose, and you can't stop them from giving it to someone they choose.”

Patient/Doctor Impact:
1. 2.2 MILLION ENTITIES – The number that could gain access to patient data without patient consent if enacted.2

2. CORPORATE CONTROL OF THE EXAM ROOM – Health plans and government officials want to use patient data to develop and impose harmful "one-size-fits-all" treatment protocols, and penalize doctors who refuse to comply.

3. LIFELONG REAL-TIME HEALTH SURVEILLANCE – Tracks, records, and links ALL diagnoses, treatments, patient and physician comments, behaviors, medications, genetic codes, family structure and more (also eliminates the right to an unbiased, second opinion).

Facts:
1. MINNESOTANS SUPPORT CONSENT – Responding to MDH report on repeal options, 73 out of 74 Minnesotans oppose ending MHRA consent requirements.3 – 2017 MDH report

2. ENDS PRIVACY PROTECTIONS – “Removes certain privacy protections for MN patients, especially related to sensitive information such as mental health, HIV/STD, and genetic information.”3 – 2017 MDH report

3. BROAD SHARING OF PATIENT-IDENTIFIABLE DATA – “[Repeal] may raise privacy concerns because of the broad scope of health care operations [a nearly 400-word list of non-clinical activities]”3 – 2017 MDH report

Take Action:
Join us at the hearing if you can! And ask committee members and your MN state legislators to oppose HF 831 and any legislation that circumvents, partially repeals, or fully repeals the current, longstanding patient-consent requirements for sharing, using, analyzing or selling your medical information. Also, sign our petition by going to this link: bit.ly/ConsentPetition

Sources: