November 6, 2017

**Talking Privacy to Doctors in DC**

Yesterday I was speaking in Washington DC to a group of more than 100 physicians. I called my speech, “Patient Privacy, Where Art Thou?”

I discussed years of federal legislation that have dismantled privacy and advanced a national health surveillance system beginning with HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. HIPAA does not protect privacy. It permits broad sharing of patient data without consent.

I also discussed coercive consent forms that people have sent to our organization, consents that really aren’t consent. Many consent forms have consent for treatment and for data-sharing on the same paper with a single signature line. I told the physicians that’s coercion, not consent.