

May 20, 2022

**Chair Senator Patrick Leahy**  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Chair Senator Patty Murray**  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Ranking Member Senator Roy Blunt**  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Leahy, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt:

I am writing to you with two urgent requests. Our organization seeks to protect patient privacy and has long taken an active interest in the Unique Patient Identifier (UPI). Thus, we are asking that you do two things. First, we request that by **Friday, June 3, 2022**, you provide our organization with a copy of the report issued in 2022 by The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) to Congress regarding its recommendation on creating a Unique Patient Identifier (UPI). We believe this is the report required on page 123 of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2020:

*[D]irects ONC, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies provide a report to the Committees one year after enactment of this Act studying the current technological and operational methods that improve identification of patients. The report shall evaluate the effectiveness of current methods and recommend actions that increase the likelihood of an accurate match of patients to their health care data. Such recommendations may or may not include a standard for a unique patient health identifier. The report shall include the risks and benefits to privacy and security of patient information.*

According to an article published by *Politico* on April 14, 2022, "The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT declined to say in a draft report to Congress whether the U.S. should adopt a unique patient identifier." **We would like to read that report.**

Second, we request that you publish the report on your committee's website, also by **Friday, June 3, 2022**, and that you require ONC to publish it on their own website as well by that date. Given the controversial nature of the UPI, ONC's findings within this report are important to the continued public debate over creating a national patient ID.

The creation of a UPI (National Patient ID) is an issue that would impact every system of health care, and therefore, every member of the public. The American people, who have funded the ONC report with their taxes, have a right to know what ONC found and what changes are, or are not, recommended.

If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling our office and asking for me (651-646-8935) or by emailing me directly at [twila@cchfreedom.org](mailto:twila@cchfreedom.org).

We look forward to receiving the report and seeing it published.

Sincerely,



Twila Brase, RN, PHN  
President and Co-founder