

May 18, 2015

Written Testimony in opposition of SB 710-A2 Amendment as proposed

Respectfully Submitted by: Tracy Paul

President/CEO of DBS Health Information, Business Associate of Healthcare facilities in Oregon

Dear Committee,

I just came across the –A2 Amendment of SB 710. I am residing in Bend, Oregon and therefore am unable to run over to the public hearing today at such short notice of this amendment. Please consider this written testimony in lieu of my appearance.

The proposed amendment to this bill removes the word “personal” and thus proposes to have a great impact on who receives the benefit of this free copy of information. As the bill is currently written, the patient and the patient’s PERSONAL representative can receive a free copy of requested health information. The definition of “personal representative” by the federal government is anyone that can make healthcare decisions on behalf of the patient. By removing the word “personal” the bill will allow ANYONE representing the patient to receive this free copy of information. The problem with this is that attorneys or other entities will then be able to request and receive with patient authorization a free copy of information.

It is our concern that the language in the –A2 amendment is too broad. The purpose of the bill is to help the patient appeal their denial of disability benefits. It was discussed in the Senate committee that this bill was NOT intended to provide legal entities with a FREE copy of information in order to determine if they were interested in representing the disabled patient in their quest to receive disability benefits. IF the word “personal representative” is removed from this bill ANYONE who would like to request a copy of the patient’s health information would be able to receive it without charge. This greatly increases the pro-bono work load of health information management departments. It costs a great deal of money and employee hours to process these requests for information.

Please keep the wording as stated in the current -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

*Tracy Paul*

Vice President

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