

*Testimony submitted via email.*

Dear Representative Greenlick:

I am unable to attend the 3 PM work session by the House Committee on Health Care to testify, but please consider my comments in opposition to this bill.

My practice is in the area of Social Security disability and SSI. Less than one in twenty of my clients have ANY source of income-the rest are living on food stamps and with the assistance of Section 8 housing, and about one in ten of my clients are homeless. Very few of my clients have the ability to pay for medical records.

My clients all have serious physical and/or mental problems that make it impossible to work, and whether or not they are found eligible for benefits depends on the extent that there is medical documentation to support their claims. In short, medical records are essential to establish a claim. I obtain authorizations to release medical information from my clients and request all records that might possibly support a claim for disability. The waiting time between application for benefits and a favorable decision is over two years for most of my clients; no one seeks these benefits who can possibly work.

This bill is an attempt to limit access by representatives to clients' medical records, and is harmful. Records copying services in particular have vigorously opposed providing medical records to claimant's representatives, but to do so harms those in our society who are ill and unable to work, the poorest of the poor.

Please consider voting against passage of this bill.

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