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HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY UNIT**

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March 11, 2025

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Irnise F. Williams, Deputy Director, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

RE: House Bill 1510- Medical Records – Notice of Destruction – Method- **OPPOSE**

The Health Education and Advocacy Unit opposes House Bill 1510. HB1510 would eliminate the requirement for notice of the destruction of medical records to be provided by both email **and** first-class mail to consumers and, instead, permit notice by either method. This elimination of an important consumer protection could lead to consumers missing out on the opportunity to retrieve their medical records before they are no longer accessible. It is not uncommon for providers to seek an email address from consumers, but providing that information does not mean that consumers elect to receive important communications electronically. At a minimum, email notification about important consumer rights should be consented to by the consumer before becoming a default means of communication. *See*, Insurance § 27.601.2 – establishing parameters for notice by electronic means.

And, although email is a widely used form of communication for many consumers, the volume of emails that some consumers receive causes them to miss important communications, particularly those they aren't expecting such as an email from a medical provider they may not have recently seen. It is also not uncommon for emails to end up in a spam folder.

Providing a consumer who has consented to receive electronic notices with two formats of the notice of destruction is a reasonable standard that should not be eliminated. While we understand there is a cost associated with mailing notice, once medical records are destroyed there is no opportunity for consumers to be able to retrieve their records and this could impact consumers' treatments, prescriptions and other healthcare needs.

We urge an unfavorable report.

cc: The Honorable Jesse T. Pippy
The Honorable Terri L. Hill
The Honorable Kenneth Kerr