



To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Care New England
Date: February 15, 2024
Subject: **Support for HB 7301**

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) is in support of HB 7301, and we would like to thank Deputy Whip Ackerman for this bill and all her efforts in the healthcare arena over the years. We also would like to thank Lifespan and The Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University for their efforts on this important piece of legislation.

CNE Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, hones renowned services and innovative programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve.

HB 7301's intent is to make medical research deidentified data sharing easier, which would significantly assist Rhode Island medical researchers who have committed to helping make the Ocean State healthier. The medical data that HB 7301 intends to make more easily accessible to healthcare researchers is anonymized, ensuring that patient confidentiality is adhered to. This data would still be reviewed by Institutional Review Boards, and often patient consent to share the data would still be required. For certain research consistent with federal law, sharing this anonymized data (which poses minimal risk) would be allowed to continue under a waiver of consent approved by the Institutional Review Board. Currently, Rhode Island's data sharing law is far beyond the standards of federal law.

CNE urges you to pass HB 7301. We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Robert Dulski, Director of Government Affairs, RDulski@CareNE.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Dulski".

Robert Dulski
Director of Government Affairs
Care New England



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