HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 5415:

An Act Concerning the Collection & Usage of Health Equity Data

HB 5415 requires the statewide health information technology plan to enhance the ability to collect and use health equity data and create standards for the collection, storage and usage of health equity data.

What is health equity data?
Health equity data is defined as demographic data that is relevant and meaningful to understanding health inequities and health disparities in the state our state. This includes race, ethnicity, primary language, age, gender, socioeconomic position, sexual minority status, disability, homelessness or geographic data.

What data standards are required by the bill?
The bill requires the establishment of standards around 1) data security, privacy, content and format; 2) compatibility with national data standard and electronic health information systems; and 3) a standard electronic format.

How does standardized health equity data collection help advance health equity?
Standardization provides agencies with a shared understanding and definition of health equity data and enables them to work collaboratively to develop planning and interventions to improve health outcomes. It also allows for the data to be compatible with national data standards, while simultaneously allowing for accountability in our statewide health equity efforts.

Why do we need health equity data?
While Connecticut ranks the 5th healthiest state in the nation[1], many segments of the population experience significant and persistent disparities in their health and well-being. Health equity data can provide state agencies and health care providers with a complete picture of health so that we can improve health outcomes for <u>all of Connecticut's residents</u>.

Does this bill cost the state money to implement?
No, there is no fiscal note.

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[1]United Health Foundation (2017). Annual report: Executive summary. Retrieved from
https://assets.americashealthrankings.org/app/uploads/ahr_annual_report_2017_executive_summary_120417a.pdf

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