

My name is Supriyo B. Chatterjee and I reside in West Hartford Connecticut. I would like to submit my comments for your consideration in the following sections of the Healthcare Cabinet Recommendations.

III. Coordinate and Align State Strategies – Office of Health Strategy

I would like to suggest that Health Equity be addressed within the provision of the 'Office of Health Strategy'. Currently, there are three 'Offices of Health Equity' (or similar) within various State agencies. This could lead to gaps in coordination of services, measurement & reporting across agencies and distribution of funding to address health equity. An estimated cost of health disparities in the state is at \$550m. A unified plan from the 'Office of Health Strategy' to address health equity and its costs would help improve the effectiveness of related programs and manage the economic costs of disparities.

IV. Support Market Competition by Expanding the Attorney General's Powers to Monitor Health Care Market Trend

The recommendation of an annual report on key topics that includes health service disparities by race and ethnicity is a good one and would provide insights into health equity matters.

VI. Support Policy Makers with Data

It is critical to have a data infrastructure to support service delivery & payments and also to contribute to the decision and policy making.

1). There is a need for an uniform approach in capturing Race, Ethnicity, Language & Status (RELS) data across the delivery system by using predefined guidelines and categorizations. The RELS data use in operations, analysis, and planning can provide insights into more efficient and effective care management. Well integrated systems have helped reduce healthcare disparities and also provide for more precise measurement for Value-Based outcomes.

2). Include Social & Behavioral data into the clinical data structure. There is ample evidence that addressing social and behavioral determinants of health can bring achievement in health outcomes. Linkages between these determinants and outcomes are important to identify the conditions and can contribute to the diagnosis and treatments. Recently, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released recommendations to incorporate measures of Social and Behavioral determinants of health into clinical EHRs.

Thank you

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