



August 5, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Room 2200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1331 (Wood): California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework – Support

Dear Chair Caballero,

On behalf of Connecting for Better Health and the organizations listed below, we thank you for your leadership and respectfully urge your support for AB 1331 (Wood). The bill will clarify and reinforce key provisions of the Data Exchange Framework, building accountability and strengthening participation. This historic statewide initiative is critical to accelerate the electronic exchange of health and social service information to realize the State's broader goals of transforming health care and advancing health equity.

Connecting for Better Health is a diverse coalition of providers, patient advocates, caregivers, health plans, technology innovators, and community-based organizations dedicated to advancing health and social data sharing to improve the health of all Californians. Our vision is that every Californian and their care team will have the information and insights they need to make care seamless, high-quality, and affordable. A robust Data Exchange Framework is key to achieving this vision.

We urge the Appropriations Committee to pass AB 1331, which advanced with no votes in opposition in 2023, to clarify and enhance Data Exchange Framework requirements. AB 1331 further defines the health care organizations required to sign the Data Sharing Agreement and will establish a Data Exchange Framework governing board to foster statewide data stewardship. Under AB 1331, the Board will be required to convene signatories, consumer advocates and racial equity experts to provide guidance to the administration and legislature on improving health and social services data sharing, including recommendations on collecting individual-level demographic and health-related social needs data. Among other needed changes to support compliance, this bill will require signing the Data Sharing Agreement as a condition of contracting with state agencies. AB 1331 additionally grants the Center for Data Insights and Innovation clear statutory authority to oversee and implement the Data Exchange Framework with accountability, investigate violations, and continue to refine the Data Sharing Agreement and its policies and procedures.

A strengthened Data Exchange Framework is fundamental for the success of many state priorities, including CalAIM, behavioral health integration, the Office of Health Care Affordability, maternal health, public health, and responding to pandemics and natural disasters. AB 1331 will establish a governance and accountability structure to advance participation in the Data Exchange Framework, laying the foundation to improve health and wellness in California through seamless data sharing for enhanced treatment, care coordination, and public health initiatives.

We thank you for your consideration of AB 1331, and respectfully request that AB 1331 is moved off Suspense.

Sincerely,

Connecting for Better Health

2-1-1 San Diego Community Information Exchange

America's Physician Groups

Anthem Blue Cross

Beyond Lucid Technologies

Blue Shield of California

BluePath Health

California Association of Health Information Exchanges

California Black Health Network

California Food is Medicine Coalition

Children Now

Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County

Civitas Networks for Health

Health Net

Inland Empire Health Plan

Inland Empire Health Information Organization

Insure the Uninsured Project

Intrepid Ascent

Kith + Kin

Los Angeles Network for Enhanced Services

L.A. Care Health Plan

Long Health

LucidAct Health

Manifest MedEx

PopHealth Solutions LLC

RecastHealth

Riverside County Medical Association

SacValley MedShare

San Diego Health Connect

Serving Communities Health Information Organization

Sonoma Connect Sonoma Unidos

Synclarity Consulting

Unite Us

Zen Healthcare IT

CC: John Ohanian, Director, Center for Data Insights and Innovation
Teri Boughton, Principal Consultant, Senate Committee on Health
Kristene Mapile, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Health
Agnes Lee, Principal Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee