

## **Labor-H**

### **(Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill)**

#### **Senate Language:**

Health Data Utilities [HDUs].—The Committee urges CDC to encourage States to coordinate with ONC to designate existing neutral, trusted, and nonprofit health information exchange(s) [HIEs] to be the State's HDU. HDUs will build upon CDC's current work to create modern, integrated, and real-time public health infrastructure by building out a highly collaborative public utility infrastructure to facilitate State-wide electronic health data sharing across the healthcare ecosystem. A State-designated HDU will drive better health outcomes and more informed population health management programs and payment models. The CDC may use appropriated funding through the Data Modernization Initiative to support the development of HDUs. The Committee urges CDC to issue policy guidelines or best practices to support the establishment of HDUs across the country.

Health Information Exchanges [HIE].—The Committee recognizes the importance of electronic health data as a critical piece to address the health needs and care delivery challenges of diverse communities. The Committee strongly encourages HHS to work with States to designate existing neutral, trusted, and nonprofit HIEs to be the State's health data utility [HDU]. HDU models are designed and implemented in alignment with States' policies and priorities to address the needs of a broader health and healthcare ecosystem. An HDU can be defined as one or more entities, guided by a diverse stakeholder governance structure, that combine, enhance, and exchange disparate electronic health data sets for treatment, care coordination, quality improvement, population health, public health emergencies, and other public and community health purposes. The Committee recognizes that each State designated HDU is essential in establishing a national framework that fulfills a current gap in healthcare by implementing a comprehensive digital health infrastructure as a public utility that will support data sharing between public and private health data stakeholders. The Committee directs HHS, through ONC and other relevant Federal agencies, to leverage existing authorities, funds, and other resources to construct policy and regulations that strengthen existing HIE infrastructure to facilitate their transition into HDUs. If necessary, the Committee encourages the Secretary to issue policy guidelines, or best practices, to encourage each State to designate an HIE or HIEs to be a State's HDU.

**Health Data Utility (HDU) Language Passed Through Appropriations & signed by POTUS on March 23, 2024**