

Testimony in Opposition – SB 378 (Health Information Exchange)

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: April 1, 2025

- Good afternoon, Madam Vice Chair, members of the Committee and staff.
- For the record, my name is Rick McCann and I am here today representing HealthIE Nevada, **to oppose SB 378.**
- HealthIE Nevada is the state's only **certified, non-profit, statewide** health information exchange.
- HealthIE Nevada has the highest levels of security, the highest technology certifications, and due to its security-focused model, it has **never been hacked or otherwise compromised.**
- **In emergency medicine**, for example, seconds count and an accurate diagnosis is critical. Whether a medical professional is responding real-time to a public health emergency like COVID-19, or transporting a trauma patient to a hospital via a life flight, **swift access to critical patient information saves lives.**
- A Health Information Exchange, or HIE, **provides immediate access to a patient's information**, including previous treatments, allergies to medications, diagnoses, lab results, medical images, previous pain medications or substance abuse, and mental illness.
- Despite the rapid advancement of electronic information in almost every other part of our lives, patient medical records are **still too often on paper** and stuffed into file cabinets or shared via fax machine.
- Oddly enough, there was a **consensus in resolving this issue** in a previous bill, **except for opposition from one single Health Fund.** And they aren't even required to be a part of this process.
- **Section 5 of SB378** specifically contravenes that consensus.

- **Section 5 of SB378** is just the **latest attack** in a long line of attacks and proposes to further weaken support for the HIE and further eliminate its use.
- **Why?**
- Who is **threatened** by this process?
- Who wants to **sacrifice patient care** and why do they want to do it?
- I don't want them to do it. I really don't think **injured or dying police officers or firefighters** do. I don't think **children or their parents** do. I don't think the **elderly** do. I don't think patients with **language barriers** do.
- So **why** is this bill not allowing it to be used anymore?
- Have you heard a good reason for it? I haven't.
- **I respectfully ask that you oppose SB 378.**
- Thank you for the privilege of your time.