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AHDI Submits Comments on Legislation to Improve EHR Functionality

MODESTO, CA, February 9, 2016—The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) announces its response to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee’s draft legislation for patient-centered electronic health record (EHR) use and its commitment to helping improve workflow inefficiencies leading to physician dissatisfaction.

AHDI President Jay Vance, CMT, CHP, AHDI-F states, “Medical transcriptionists (also called healthcare documentation specialists) have partnered with clinicians for decades, providing accurate and complete healthcare documentation. This longstanding partnership makes us uniquely positioned to provide feedback on how the EHR workflow may be improved upon.”

AHDI’s leaders identified and spoke out about several contributing factors leading to physician dissatisfaction with EHR-based documentation workflow, to include 1) an over-emphasis on structured data, 2) technology blocks that limit physicians’ options, and 3) requiring physicians to perform data entry instead of providing patient care.

AHDI proposed solid solutions and inclusive language that would support a more efficient EHR workflow. Recommendations included adding wording 1) to support a balanced combination of structured and unstructured data, 2) to acknowledge that interface fees may limit physicians’ choice of technology suited to their practice’s needs, and 3) to include “certified healthcare documentation specialists” and “certified medical transcriptionists” as part of the definition of “non-physician members of the care team” when delegating clinical documentation duties.

AHDI is dedicated to upholding the highest standards in clinical documentation and to providing ongoing support to the healthcare community. Read AHDI’s full comments about Draft Bill BAI16031 [here](#).

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About AHDI

The [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](http://www.ahdionline.org) (AHDI) is a not-for-profit association representing the individuals and organizations in healthcare documentation. AHDI’s purpose is to protect the integrity of patients’ health information through continuous workforce development and the support of practitioners and industry partners. Learn more about AHDI by visiting our website, www.ahdionline.org.