

Submitter: Rachel Knox

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB303

Chair Nosse, and members of the Committee,

I write today in opposition to SB 303, as I support OPSCC's amendment.

Data equity and the arguments thus far presented about this bill being one that facilitates equity has been a bit misleading. Without client agency being a central element to data collection and data sharing, data exchange can never be truly equitable. Clients must have the option to opt-IN to sharing their data. This is the only option that honors agency because it requires conscious consent. Having the ability to opt-out does not go far enough in respecting client autonomy because it does not require conscious consent - unless clients are thoroughly counseled and made aware that they can opt-out, the chances that clients fail to opt-out for as simple a circumstance as accidental oversight increases the likelihood of them passively or even unknowingly consenting to something a they might actually object to. This is the foundational first step to data equity, and achieving equity through data use. Anything less is counter to equity.

Thank you for recognizing this testimony.

- Dr. Rachel Knox, MD, MBA