



**news**

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**AHIMA Statement on HHS-Labor Spending Bills That Maintains the Ban on Discussion of a National Patient Health Safety Identifier**

**Chicago, June 13, 2016** – “The [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) is disappointed to see that the bills for funding the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) currently being considered in the Senate and House of Representatives continue the decades-old ban prohibiting HHS from participating in efforts to find a patient identification solution. This is a major safety issue and one that greatly concerns many healthcare professionals and consumers and should be of utmost concern to legislators.

Accurately telling a patient’s story begins with the patient being identified correctly. The health information management professionals we represent know we must move toward a voluntary patient safety identifier so that health information can be trustworthy and available where and when it’s needed.

We urge legislators to remove this ban that makes it more difficult for patients to reap the benefits of 21<sup>st</sup> century health care. AHIMA, HIM professionals and other stakeholders will continue to speak out on this issue that is critical to patient safety.” - AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA.

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**About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA’s enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)