

Senators Press HHS Tech Official on AI Use in Health Records

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Victoria Knight – Bloomberg Government Reporter

- Senators scrutinized the use of artificial intelligence in patients' health records during a hearing with a top Trump administration health information technology official.
- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chair Bill Cassidy and Sen. Angela Alsobrooks expressed interest in establishing oversight of the technology, citing concerns about privacy issues and patient safety.
- Thomas Keane, national coordinator for health information technology, said the agency is aware of potential concerns and has put out a public request for feedback on how AI can be used safely and effectively in the health care system.

Senators on both sides of the aisle scrutinized the use of artificial intelligence in patients' health records during a hearing with a top Trump administration health information technology official Thursday.

It's an early sign that lawmakers are interested in enacting oversight of the burgeoning technology, which has been adopted at a rapid pace in the health care industry.

During the hearing, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chair [Bill Cassidy](#) (R-La.) hit a number of pressure points with AI, using a rural doctor as an example. "Who gets to use the data that flows from it that might be for financial gain? What are the privacy issues?" Cassidy asked.

Thomas Keane, national coordinator for health information technology at the Department of Health and Human Services, didn't offer specifics when Cassidy asked if Congress or the administration needed to issue legislation or guidelines to help protect patient information from AI systems.

"What I can say is that the standards that we promulgate create a clean surface on which any future regulation or legislation can actually act effectively," Keane said.

Concern didn't just come from the Republican senator. Sen. [Angela Alsobrooks](#) (D-Md.) also expressed interest in establishing safety and transparency guardrails on the technology.

"We're seeing AI embedded directly into clinical software systems used by doctors and nurses, meaning these technologies are increasingly influencing diagnoses, treatment decisions, and care management," Alsobrooks said.

Keane responded that the agency was aware of potential concerns with sharing data, and that HHS has [put out a public request for feedback](#) on how AI can be used safely and effectively in the health care system.

"We believe that we have a very real role in making sure that patient safety and privacy are protected by the AI systems that we oversee," Keane said.

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