

New Bill Would Require Disclosure For Any Data Breaches On Healthcare.gov Website

December 18, 2013 - Representative Diane Black (R - TN) has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives that would require the federal government to notify individuals in the event of a data breach on the federal healthcare exchange. Current law requires this type of notification on all of the state-run exchanges but not the federal exchange. Based on congressional testimony from several computer experts over the past month, there is a very good chance that the federal exchange has already been breached on multiple occasions.

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Rep. Black's bill is called the Federal Exchange Data Breach Notification Act of 2013. In a statement she said the bill would "simply require the federal government to notify individuals if their personal information has been compromised on the federal Obamacare exchange."

Black went on to say, "Whether through Navigators with no background checks, or inadequate security testing on their website, the Obama administration has thrown Americans' data security out the window when it comes to Obamacare." To date, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has not conducted end-to-end security testing of the federal exchange. As we have previously reported, the focus of HHS has been to get the site working properly but the repairs which have been made to date have actually increased the risk of data breaches on the site.

Numerous reviews of the federal exchange by a wide variety of computer experts have resulted in equally numerous recommendations by those experts that Americans should not be using the site in its present form. Anyone using the site faces a serious risk of having their personal information exposed and of becoming a victim of ID theft.

by Jim Malmberg

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