



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Katrina Shankland**  
71<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

November 12, 2019

Elizabeth Cliffe  
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy  
Ascension Wisconsin  
400 W. River Woods Pkwy  
Glendale, WI 53212

Dear Elizabeth:

I am writing today with serious concerns about the recent news that Ascension may have shared personal health records with Google as part of Project Nightingale. This is alarming news, and I am writing to inquire and find answers on behalf of my constituents.

- Did you expressly authorize Google to access patients' personal health records?
- How many patients' health information was released?
- How does this comport with HIPAA? If it does, how does the release of personal health information to Google "help the covered entity carry out its health care functions"?
- Did you authorize the release of patients' personal health records to any other entity? If so, who?
- Whose consent did you receive to authorize the release of these records, if any?
- Who at Ascension knew about the release of these records? If it is true that the patients and doctors didn't know, who did?
- What personal identifiers were included in this data?
- How did you aggregate the data?
- How did you protect the data? What kind of security plan did you have in place?
- What is the justification of the release of this data?

I am deeply disappointed to hear of this privacy breach and expect Wisconsin's second-largest health provider to do better. I look forward to your response.

Best,

Katrina Shankland  
State Representative  
71st Assembly District