



Office of the Vice President
Governmental Programs

1301 K Street Northwest, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005 3307

October 19, 2007

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0514

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of the IBM, I would like to indicate our endorsement of HR 3800, "The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act". It promotes adoption of standards, interoperability, and ensures privacy safeguards are in place for personal health information.

Potential grants for information exchange. The Act authorizes grants to state and local governments and providers (with a preference for those that use the "medical home" patient care model) to purchase and enhance the utilization of standards-compliant information technology systems. As funded through subsequent appropriations, these grants and loans would facilitate the sharing of health information.

Defining management responsibility for health information technology. The legislation codifies the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health information and a public-private advisory board to recommend or endorse appropriate HIT interoperability standards with definitive timeframes for adoption.

Driving adoption of the standards. The Act provides that all federal HIT procurement must comply with the standards endorsed by the interoperability standards body. At the same time, the Act would require that that Federal agencies collecting health data for the purposes of surveillance, epidemiology, adverse event reporting, and research shall comply with the standards while adoption will be voluntary for private entities.

We thank you for advancing these important provisions and look forward to supporting the Act's passage this Congress.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Caine