



Business Roundtable



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**“Divided We Fail” Applauds Bipartisan
House Health IT Legislation**

Bill to Increase the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Nation’s Health Care

WASHINGTON – Members of “Divided We Fail” -- AARP, Business Roundtable and SEIU, which collectively represent more than 50 million Americans -- today joined voices in expressing support for a bipartisan effort that would help mend the nation’s failing health care system by promoting patient safety, information quality, and cost efficiency: the “Promoting Health Information Technology Act.”

Introduced by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, and Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), a member of the Energy and Commerce panel, the bill would accelerate the adoption of health information technology and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. healthcare system.

“Health IT has enormous potential to improve quality and safety and lower costs throughout our health care system,” said AARP CEO Bill Novelli. “It also can help patients and their families assume a more central role in their own health care. A secure, uniform, interoperable system that works for patients and providers will save time, stress and money.”

“A nationwide, interoperable health information system would improve the quality of health care for all Americans, while also making it more affordable,” said John J. Castellani, Business Roundtable President. “Virtually every other sector of our economy has embraced the transformative power of technology. This bill would help bring U.S. health care into the 21st century, helping save lives and money. We hope that the House will quickly pass this legislation and inspire their counterparts in the Senate to follow suit.”

“With the remarkable technological advances our nation has made in recent years, we are living in an age of almost limitless possibility,” said SEIU President Andy Stern. “If we are truly going to build a new, American health care system, we must harness this capability.”

Divided We Fail supports health IT as a critical building block for broader health care reform. Together, AARP, Business Roundtable and SEIU are committed to engaging the American

people, businesses, non-profit organizations, and elected officials in finding bipartisan solutions like health IT to ensure affordable, quality health care for all.

More information about Divided We Fail efforts can be found at www.dividedwefail.org.

AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, published bimonthly; AARP Bulletin, our monthly newspaper; AARP Segunda Juventud, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; NRTA Live & Learn, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, <http://www.aarp.org>. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Business Roundtable

Business Roundtable (www.businessroundtable.org) is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with \$4.5 trillion in annual revenues and more than 10 million employees. Member companies comprise nearly a third of the total value of the U.S. stock markets and represent over 40 percent of all corporate income taxes paid. Collectively, they returned \$112 billion in dividends to shareholders and the economy in 2005. Roundtable companies give more than \$7 billion a year in combined charitable contributions, representing nearly 60 percent of total corporate giving. They are technology innovation leaders, with \$90 billion in annual research and development spending - nearly half of the total private R&D spending in the U.S.

SEIU

With 1.8 million members, SEIU (www.seiu.org) is the fastest-growing union in North America. Focused on uniting workers in three sectors to improve their lives and the services they provide, SEIU is the largest health care union, including hospitals, nursing homes, and home care; the largest property services union, including building cleaning and security; and the second largest public employee union.

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