



November 6, 2007

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
US House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike J. Rogers
US House of Representatives

RE: H.R. 3800 “Promoting Health Information Technology Act”

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo and Congressman Rogers:

On behalf of the high-tech community, AeA (American Electronics Association) would like to thank you for your work on Health Information Technology (IT). AeA and its member companies believe that the development of Health IT is a crucial component in upgrading America’s decaying healthcare system. Thus, AeA fully supports H.R. 3800, “Promoting Health Information Technology Act.”

The importance of Health IT stems health care providers’ ability to save money, time, and most importantly lives. According to the RAND Corporation, electronic medical records could save the United States at least \$162 billion and potentially as much as \$346 billion annually. In addition to the financial saving, Health IT has proven to help reduce medical error, increase life expectancy, and reduce patient wait time.

H.R. 3800 promotes the growth of Health IT by improving interoperability and creating federal standards. H.R. 3800 takes an important step in promoting interoperability by codifying the National Coordinator of HIT, providing grants to eligible entities to purchase qualified Health IT systems, and prohibiting federal agencies from purchasing Health IT systems that are not interoperable with federally adopted standards. Additionally, H.R. 3800 addresses privacy and security concerns that make patients hesitant in using electronic health records. Because H.R. 3800 addresses the major obstacles facing Health IT, AeA fully supports this bill.

AeA is the nation's largest high-tech trade association and represents over 1.8 million high-tech workers in more than 2,500 IT sector companies which span the high-technology spectrum, from software, semiconductors, medical devices and computers to Internet technology, advanced electronics and telecommunications systems and services. Complete information on AeA and its mission is available on our website at www.aeanet.org.

We thank you again for your work on this issue and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me or our Manager and Counsel of Domestic Policy, Alan Vazquez, in our Washington, DC office, at 202-682-4439 or alan_vazquez@aeaanet.org.

Sincerely,

William T. Archey
President & CEO
AeA (American Electronics Association)