



October 10, 2007

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo and Representative Rogers:

We are writing today to applaud you for introducing legislation that will bring health information technology (Health IT) to all Americans. Your leadership on this critical issue will help save lives, improve patient care and reduce the cost of health care by billions of dollars.

Health IT Now! is a coalition established to promote the rapid deployment and widespread adoption of health information technology. Health IT will benefit patients and health care consumers while helping health practitioners make smart decisions about patient care. We believe consensus legislative action is critical, necessary and possible this year to create a basis for future action.

Your proposed bill adopts several of the Health IT Now! Coalition principles to promote the widespread adoption of health information technology. In particular, the legislation sets a date certain for establishing interoperability standards, provides grants and loans to providers, empowers public-private partnerships, and codifies aspects of the Health IT effort into law, thus helping to realize life-saving—and cost-saving—advances of modern technology.

The benefits of Health IT are many and include instant physician access to a patient's medical information, interactive support for the elderly and those with chronic conditions, superior electronic record-keeping to eliminate duplicate and unnecessary tests, and networked systems of best-practice information made accessible to providers. Health IT will significantly reduce the 44,000 to 98,000 deaths that occur each year due to medical errors, and save billions annually. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services notes that the adoption of electronic medical records could reduce health spending by 7.5 to 30 percent.

Americans have waited too long for the benefits of Health IT. We look forward to working with you, leaders in the Senate and the Administration to seize this unique opportunity and pass health IT legislation this year.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance
American Society of Clinical Oncology
The Boeing Company
Consumers for Competitive Choice
FasterCures
Genetic Alliance
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Latino Coalition
Marshfield Clinic
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Manufacturers
National Disease Clusters Alliance
National Medical Association
National MS Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Retail Federation
Parkinson's Action Network
Research!America
RetireSafe
Seniors Coalition
US Oncology
Verizon
Women Work!
World Institute on Disability

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee

HealthITNow.org is an organization which educates the public and policymakers on the challenges of our current health care system and the transforming life-saving and cost-saving benefits of health care information technology. As an organization formed within the meaning of section 501(c)(4), contributions to the organization are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.