



# American Health Care Association

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July 22, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room 2125 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL), the nation's largest association representing providers of quality long term care, I am writing to acknowledge our support for H.R. 6357, the "*Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology Act of 2008.*"

This legislation has the potential to transform health and long term care by utilizing information technology to create information networks that allow for the seamless transfer of data while guaranteeing privacy and security. With electronic medical records in every provider's hand, your legislation can directly lead to improving patient safety, quality and efficiency in all settings including our nation's nursing homes and assisted living residences.

Through the grant program for providers, the establishment of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, and the coordination of Federal activities with adopted standards, it is clear that you have provided the critical elements necessary to fast track the potential of this legislation toward reaching its goals.

AHCA and NCAL fully support and commend you for the leadership you are providing with the introduction of H.R. 6357.

Sincerely,

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