- Aetna
- American Academy of Nursing
- The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living
- American Heart Association
- American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance
- American Telemedicine Association
- Bronx Regional Health Information Organization
- Business Roundtable
- Cigna
- Consumers for Competitive Choice
- DCPCA
- The Dow Chemical Company
- FasterCures
- Health Tech Strategies
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Latino Coalition
- Mercy Medical Center
- Montefiore Medical Center
- National Alliance for Caregiving
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
- National Disease Clusters Alliance
- National Medical Association
- National MS Society
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- National Retail Federation
- New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Nortel
- Parkinson's Action Network
- Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
- Research!America
- RetireSafe
- Seniors Coalition
- Society for Human Resource Management
- US Oncology
- Verizon
- Whitman-Walker Clinic
- Women Work!
- World Institute on Disability

July 23, 2008

Chairman John Dingell
Ranking Member Joe Barton

Dear Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton:

The undersigned members of the Health IT Now Coalition support your efforts to pass H.R. 6357, the bipartisan "Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment, and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology Act," or "PRO(TECH)T Act.

We are a diverse coalition, and some of our members have written to you separately to express concerns about certain aspects of the bill.

We do believe, however, this is an important initiative that meets the broad principles of the coalition. Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes a formal structure to adopt national interoperability standards and a creating a clear pathway for product certification;
- Provides financial incentives through grants, loans and federal contracting;
- Allows for education of consumers and providers about the benefits and use of health IT; and
- Creates a framework to address privacy and security issues.

These provisions could promote better care at lower costs in both public programs and in the private health care market.

It is extremely important that legislation focused on the adoption and use of safe and secure electronic health information systems be adopted as soon as possible, as such systems will be the foundation for essential improvements in quality and access to care. Without a bill passed this year, there will be significant delays in adoption, with resulting delays in evidence-based medicine, expanded access, and value-based purchasing. You have worked hard to advance this legislation, and we urge you to keep on working for a final draft that can be sent to the President for signature. We believe Congress should be able to point to passage of a bipartisan bill for investment in health IT this year as a major accomplishment before adjournment.

Our members want to work with you to address their concerns and to help ensure a bill that promotes health IT is signed into law this year.

Sincerely,

Members of the Health IT Now Coalition

*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.*