



July 18, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Barton:

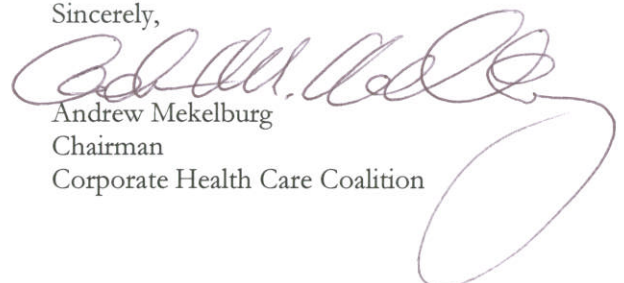
The Corporate Health Care Coalition (CHCC) supports your bipartisan effort to pass H.R. 6357, the "Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment, and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology Act," or "PRO(TECH)T Act," through the Energy and Commerce Committee.

CHCC is a public policy organization comprised of leading companies from varying industries that compete in the global marketplace. CHCC member companies sponsor self-insured health care plans for our employees and other beneficiaries in every state in the nation. As employers that design, purchase and administer health coverage across the country, CHCC advances proactive, market-driven solutions to improve the health care system and the health of our employees and other beneficiaries. CHCC mission is to advocate public policies to make quality health care more affordable, accessible, accountable and sustainable.

One of CHCC top priorities is to accelerate the deployment of health information technology, including a process to ensure national standards for interoperable systems. We believe that this bill is a strong step and would establish a process to set interoperable standards for Health information technology (HIT). With over 100,000 deaths from preventable medical errors and potential annual savings of over \$80 billion, our country can't afford to wait. We strongly encourage Congress to pass Health IT legislation this year.

We appreciate your commitment to continue to work to improve the bill as it moves through the legislative process. We look forward to working with you not only on H.R. 6357, but also on future efforts to strengthen the American health care system and ensure that all Americans have access to consistent and high quality care.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Mekelburg', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Andrew Mekelburg
Chairman
Corporate Health Care Coalition