

July 23, 2008

Representative John Dingell
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Frank Pallone
Chairman
Health Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nathan Deal
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell, Chairman Pallone, Representative Barton, and Representative Deal:

HR Policy Association applauds the Energy and Commerce Committee's approval of The Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment, and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology Act of 2008 (H.R. 6357). This legislation would promote the widespread use of interoperable health care information technology (HIT), which is critical to improving the quality and efficiency of our health care system. We commend the bipartisan approach and spirit of compromise that you have adopted in addressing this important issue.

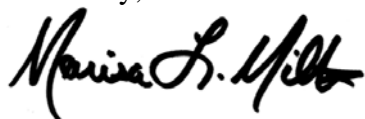
HR Policy Association is a public policy organization representing the senior human resource executives of over 250 leading employers doing business in the United States. Collectively, our members employ over 12 percent of the U.S. private workforce or some 19 million Americans.

Greater use of HIT such as electronic prescribing and electronic medical records would save lives and money. In an era in which state of the art technology is readily available in a variety of industries, we need more physicians and hospitals to apply HIT in a manner that creates a more convenient and safer patient experience. As more Americans are taking greater responsibility for their health care, they need better information to make decisions for themselves and their families. These health care decisions can be aided greatly by more widespread use of HIT.

H.R. 6357 would help to achieve the benefits that can be derived from increased use of HIT by encouraging doctors, hospitals, insurers, and the government to exchange health information electronically across the country. The legislation would also facilitate the adoption of interoperability standards, a necessary prerequisite for HIT to fulfill its promise to improve our health care system. HR Policy urges Congress to act on H.R. 6357 this year.

Your continued leadership in improving our health care system is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Marisa L. Milton
Associate General Counsel and Director, Health Care Policy

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee