

**AMENDMENT-IN-THE-NATURE-OF-A-SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 877  
OFFERED BY MR. THOMAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Patient Safety Improvement Act of 2003”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Patient safety improvements.

“PART D—PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

“Sec. 1181. Voluntary reporting of patient safety data; definitions.

“Sec. 1182. Confidentiality and peer review protections.

“Sec. 1183. Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety.

“Sec. 1184. Interoperability standards for health care information technology systems.

“Sec. 1185. Voluntary adoption of methods to improve patient safety.

“Sec. 1186. Evaluation and report.

Sec. 3. Medical Information Technology Advisory Board.

**6 SEC. 2. PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.**

7 Title XI of the Social Security Act is amended by  
8 adding at the end the following new part:

9 “PART D—PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

10 “VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF PATIENT SAFETY DATA;

11 DEFINITIONS

12 “SEC. 1181. (a) COLLECTION AND VOLUNTARY RE-  
13 PORTING OF PATIENT SAFETY DATA.—In order to im-

1 prove patient safety and the quality of health care delivery,  
2 a health care provider (as defined in subsection (d)) may  
3 voluntarily collect and develop patient safety data (as de-  
4 fined in subsection (e)) and report such data to one or  
5 more patient safety organizations (as defined in subsection  
6 (f)) in a manner that is confidential and privileged (as  
7 described in section 1182).

8       “(b) USE OF PATIENT SAFETY DATA BY PATIENT  
9 SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS.—Patient safety organizations  
10 shall analyze the patient safety data reported and develop  
11 (and report back to health care providers) information to  
12 improve patient safety and the quality of health care deliv-  
13 ery and shall submit non-identifiable information derived  
14 from such data in a uniform manner to the Center for  
15 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (for inclusion in  
16 the Patient Safety Database, if applicable). Such non-  
17 identifiable information may be disclosed and shared with  
18 other patient safety organizations. Identifiable patient  
19 safety data may be disclosed to other patient safety orga-  
20 nizations with the explicit authorization for each such dis-  
21 closure by the reporting provider involved.

22       “(c) FUNCTIONS OF CENTER.—The Center for Qual-  
23 ity Improvement and Patient Safety conducts patient safe-  
24 ty activities consistent with section 1183.

1       “(d) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS COVERED.—For  
2 purposes of this part, the term ‘health care provider’  
3 means a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u)  
4 and including a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home  
5 health agency, and hospice program) that provides services  
6 for which payment may be made under part A of title  
7 XVIII and the provider’s employees, and includes physi-  
8 cians insofar as they furnish health care services in the  
9 health care provider.

10       “(e) PATIENT SAFETY DATA COVERED.—

11               “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part,  
12 the term ‘patient safety data’ means any data, re-  
13 ports, records, memoranda, analyses, deliberative  
14 work, statements, or root cause analyses that are  
15 collected or developed to improve patient safety or  
16 health care quality and that—

17                       “(A) are collected or developed by a health  
18 care provider for the purpose of reporting to a  
19 patient safety organization and that are re-  
20 ported on a timely basis to such an organiza-  
21 tion;

22                       “(B) are collected or developed by a pa-  
23 tient safety organization or by (or on behalf of)  
24 the Center for Quality Improvement and Pa-  
25 tient Safety, regardless of whether the data are

1 transmitted to the health care provider that re-  
2 ported the original data; or

3 “(C) describes corrective actions taken by  
4 a health care provider in response to the pro-  
5 vider’s reporting of data to that organization,  
6 regardless of whether the organization has  
7 transmitted under subsection (f)(2) information  
8 to the health care provider that reported the  
9 original data, and that are reported on a timely  
10 basis to such an organization.

11 “(2) CONSTRUCTION REGARDING USE OF  
12 DATA.—

13 “(A) INTERNAL USE PERMITTED TO IM-  
14 PROVE PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY, AND EFFI-  
15 CIENCY.—Nothing in this part shall be con-  
16 strued to limit or discourage a health care pro-  
17 vider from developing and using patient safety  
18 data within the provider to improve patient  
19 safety, health care quality, or administrative ef-  
20 ficiency of the provider.

21 “(B) TREATMENT.—Information that is  
22 collected or developed as patient safety data is  
23 not disqualified from being treated as patient  
24 safety data because of its development or use  
25 for the purposes described in subparagraph (A)

1           and such development or use shall not con-  
2           stitute a waiver of any privilege or protection  
3           established under section 1182 or under State  
4           law.

5           “(f) QUALIFICATIONS OF PATIENT SAFETY ORGANI-  
6 ZATIONS.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part,  
8           the term ‘patient safety organization’ means a pri-  
9           vate or public organization that conducts activities  
10          to improve patient safety and the quality of health  
11          care delivery by assisting health care providers that  
12          report to such organizations and that has been cer-  
13          tified by the Secretary as—

14                   “(A) performing each of the activities de-  
15                   scribed in paragraph (2); and

16                   “(B) meets the other requirements of para-  
17                   graphs (3) through (5).

18           “(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities  
19          referred to in paragraph (1)(A) are the following:

20                   “(A) The collection and analysis of patient  
21                   safety data that are voluntarily reported by  
22                   more than one health care provider on a local,  
23                   regional, State, or national basis.

24                   “(B) The development and dissemination  
25                   of information to health care providers and

1 other patient safety organizations with respect  
2 to improving patient safety, such as rec-  
3 ommendations, protocols, or information re-  
4 garding best practices.

5 “(C) The utilization of patient safety data  
6 to carry out activities under this paragraph to  
7 improve patient safety and to provide assistance  
8 to health care providers to minimize patient  
9 risk.

10 “(3) CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES.—In conducting  
11 activities under paragraph (2), a patient safety orga-  
12 nization shall—

13 “(A) maintain confidentiality with respect  
14 to individually identifiable health information;

15 “(B) submit non-identifiable information  
16 to the Center for Quality Improvement and Pa-  
17 tient Safety in a format established by the Sec-  
18 retary; and

19 “(C) maintain appropriate security meas-  
20 ures with respect to patient safety data.

21 “(4) ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—The re-  
22 quirements of this paragraph for an organization are  
23 that—

24 “(A) the organization is managed, con-  
25 trolled, and operated independently from health

1 care providers which report patient safety data  
2 to it under this part;

3 “(B) if the organization no longer qualifies  
4 as a patient safety organization, with respect to  
5 any patient safety data that it received from a  
6 health care provider, the organization shall do  
7 one of the following:

8 “(i) with the approval of the provider  
9 and another patient safety organization,  
10 transfer such data to such other organiza-  
11 tion;

12 “(ii) if practicable, return the data to  
13 the provider; or

14 “(iii) destroy the patient safety data;

15 “(C) if the organization charges a fee for  
16 the activities it performs with respect to health  
17 care providers, the fee shall be uniform among  
18 all classes or types of health care providers  
19 (taking into account the size of the health care  
20 provider);

21 “(D) the organization seeks to collect data  
22 from health care providers in a standardized  
23 manner that permits valid comparisons of simi-  
24 lar cases among similar health care providers;  
25 and

1           “(E) the organization meets such other re-  
2           quirements as the Secretary may by regulation  
3           require.

4           For purposes of subparagraph (A), an organization  
5           is controlled by a health care provider if the provider  
6           is able to significantly influence or direct the actions  
7           or policies of the organization.

8           “(5) LIMITATION ON USE OF PATIENT SAFETY  
9           DATA BY PATIENT SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS.—A pa-  
10          tient safety organization may not use patient safety  
11          data reported by a health care provider in accord-  
12          ance with this part to take regulatory or enforce-  
13          ment actions it otherwise performs (or is responsible  
14          for performing) in relation to such provider.

15          “(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
16          may provide technical assistance to patient safety or-  
17          ganizations in providing recommendations and ad-  
18          vice to health care providers reporting patient safety  
19          data under this part. Such assistance shall include  
20          advice with respect to methodology, communication,  
21          dissemination of information, data collection, secu-  
22          rity, and confidentiality concerns.

23          “(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this part shall be  
24          construed to limit or discourage the reporting of informa-



1 tion relating to patient safety within a health care pro-  
2 vider.

3 “CONFIDENTIALITY AND PEER REVIEW PROTECTIONS

4 “SEC. 1182. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
5 other provision of law, patient safety data shall be privi-  
6 leged and confidential in accordance with this section.

7 “(b) SCOPE OF PRIVILEGE.—Subject to the suc-  
8 ceeding provisions of this section, such data shall not be—

9 “(1) subject to a civil or administrative sub-  
10 poena;

11 “(2) subject to discovery in connection with a  
12 civil or administrative proceeding;

13 “(3) disclosed pursuant to section 552 of title  
14 5, United States Code (commonly known as the  
15 Freedom of Information Act) or any other similar  
16 Federal or State law; or

17 “(4) admitted as evidence or otherwise disclosed  
18 in any civil or administrative proceeding.

19 “(c) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE.—The privilege estab-  
20 lished by this section with respect to patient safety data  
21 described in section 1181(e)(1)(A) shall apply to informa-  
22 tion, such as records of a patient’s medical diagnosis and  
23 treatment, other primary health care information, and  
24 other information, to the extent that such information was  
25 collected or developed for the purpose specified in such  
26 section and is reported in accordance with such section.

1 Such privilege shall not apply to information merely by  
2 reason of its inclusion, or the fact of its submission, in  
3 a report under such section. Information available from  
4 sources other than a report made under such section may  
5 be discovered or admitted in a civil or administrative pro-  
6 ceeding, if discoverable or admissible under applicable  
7 state law.

8 “(d) INFORMATION NOT SUBJECT TO PRIVILEGE.—  
9 The privilege established by this section shall not apply  
10 to one or more of the following:

11 “(1) MEDICAL RECORDS AND OTHER PRIMARY  
12 HEALTH RECORDS.—Records of a patient’s medical  
13 diagnosis and treatment and other primary health  
14 records of a health care provider. Such privilege  
15 shall not apply to such information by reason of its  
16 inclusion within patient safety data.

17 “(2) NON-IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION USED  
18 BY DATABASE.—Non-identifiable information from a  
19 patient safety organization to the Patient Safety  
20 Database and the further disclosure of such data by  
21 the Center for Quality Improvement and Patient  
22 Safety.

23 “(e) REPORTER PROTECTION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A health care provider may  
25 not use against an individual in an adverse employ-

1       ment action described in paragraph (2) the fact that  
2       the individual in good faith reported—

3               “(A) to the provider with the intention of  
4               having it reported to a patient safety organiza-  
5               tion, or

6               “(B) directly to a patient safety organiza-  
7               tion,

8       information that would constitute patient safety data  
9       under section 1181(e)(1)(A) if the provider were to  
10      have submitted it on a timely basis to a patient safe-  
11      ty organization in accordance with such section.

12              “(2) ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT ACTION.—For  
13      purposes of this subsection, an ‘adverse employment  
14      action’ includes—

15              “(A) the failure to promote an individual  
16              or provide any other employment-related benefit  
17              for which the individual would otherwise be eli-  
18              gible;

19              “(B) an evaluation or decision made in re-  
20              lation to accreditation, certification,  
21              credentialing or licensing of the individual; and

22              “(C) a personnel action that is adverse to  
23              the individual concerned.

24              “(3) REMEDIES.—The provisions of the first  
25      sentence of section 1128A(a) shall apply with re-

1       spect to a health care provider’s violation of para-  
2       graph (1) in the same manner as they apply to an  
3       act referred to in section 1128A(a)(7).

4       “(f) PENALTY.—

5             “(1) PROHIBITION.—It is unlawful for any per-  
6       son to disclose any patient safety data in violation  
7       of the provisions of this section.

8             “(2) AMOUNT.—Any person who violates para-  
9       graph (1) shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty  
10      of not more than \$10,000 for each such violation in-  
11      volved. The provisions of section 1128A (other than  
12      subsections (a) and (b)) shall apply to a civil money  
13      penalty under this paragraph in the same manner as  
14      they apply to a penalty or proceeding under section  
15      1128A(a).

16            “(3) RELATION TO HIPAA.—The penalty under  
17      paragraph (2) for a disclosure in violation of para-  
18      graph (1) does not apply if the person would be sub-  
19      ject to a penalty under section 264(c) of the Health  
20      Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of  
21      1996 (Public Law 104–191; 110 Stat. 2033), or any  
22      regulation promulgated under such section, for the  
23      same disclosure.

24      “(g) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

1           “(1) NO LIMITATION OF OTHER PRIVILEGES.—  
2           Subject to paragraph (2), nothing in this section  
3           shall be construed as affecting other privileges that  
4           are available under Federal or State laws that pro-  
5           vide greater peer review or confidentiality protec-  
6           tions than the peer review and confidentiality protec-  
7           tions provided for in this section.

8           “(2) NO EFFECT ON STATE MANDATORY RE-  
9           PORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this part  
10          shall be construed as preempting or otherwise affect-  
11          ing any State law mandatory reporting requirement  
12          for health care providers.

13          “(h) APPLICATION OF PRIVACY REGULATIONS.—For  
14          purposes of applying the regulations promulgated pursu-  
15          ant to section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability  
16          and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191; 110  
17          Stat. 2033)—

18                 “(1) patient safety organizations shall be treat-  
19                 ed as business associates;

20                 “(2) activities of such organizations described  
21                 in section 1181(f)(2)(A) in relation to a health care  
22                 provider are deemed to be health care operations of  
23                 the provider; and

24                 “(3) the disclosure of identifiable information  
25                 under the voluntary program under this part by

1 such an organization shall be treated as necessary  
2 for the proper management and administration of  
3 the organization.

4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or affect  
5 the implementation of such regulation or such section  
6 264(c).

7 “(i) WAIVERS.—Nothing in this part shall be con-  
8 strued as precluding a health care provider from waiving  
9 the privilege or confidentiality protections under this sec-  
10 tion.

11 “(j) CONTINUATION OF PRIVILEGE.—Patient safety  
12 data of an organization that is certified as a patient safety  
13 organization shall continue to be privileged and confiden-  
14 tial, in accordance with this section, if the organization’s  
15 certification is terminated or revoked or if the organization  
16 otherwise ceases to qualify as a patient safety organization  
17 until the data are otherwise disposed of in accordance with  
18 section 1181(f)(4).

19 “(k) SURVEY AND REPORT.—

20 “(1) SURVEY.—The Comptroller General of the  
21 United States shall conduct a survey of State laws  
22 that relate to patient safety data peer review sys-  
23 tems, including laws that establish an evidentiary  
24 privilege applicable to data developed in such sys-  
25 tems, and shall review the manner in which such

1 laws have been interpreted by the courts and the ef-  
2 fectiveness of such laws in promoting patient safety.

3 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after  
4 the date of enactment of this section, the Comp-  
5 troller General shall prepare and submit to Congress  
6 a report concerning the results of the survey con-  
7 ducted under paragraph (1).

8 “CENTER FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT  
9 SAFETY

10 “SEC. 1183. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
11 ensure that the Center for Quality Improvement and Pa-  
12 tient Safety (in this section referred to as the ‘Center’)  
13 supports public and private sector initiatives to improve  
14 patient safety for items and services furnished through  
15 health care providers.

16 “(b) DUTIES.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure  
18 that the Center carries out the following duties:

19 “(A) Provide for the certification and re-  
20 certification of patient safety organizations in  
21 accordance with subsection (d).

22 “(B) Collect and disseminate information  
23 related to patient safety.

24 “(C) Establish a Patient Safety Database  
25 to collect, support, and coordinate the analysis

1 of non-identifiable information submitted to the  
2 Database in accordance with subsection (e).

3 “(D) Facilitate the development of con-  
4 sensus among health care providers, patients,  
5 and other interested parties concerning patient  
6 safety and recommendations to improve patient  
7 safety.

8 “(E) Provide technical assistance to States  
9 that have (or are developing) medical errors re-  
10 porting systems, assist States in developing  
11 standardized methods for data collection, and  
12 collect data from State reporting systems for  
13 inclusion in the Patient Safety Database.

14 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the du-  
15 ties under paragraph (1) (including the establish-  
16 ment of the Database), the Secretary shall consult  
17 with and develop partnerships, as appropriate, with  
18 health care organizations, health care providers,  
19 public and private sector entities, patient safety or-  
20 ganizations, health care consumers, and other rel-  
21 evant experts to improve patient safety.

22 “(c) CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION PROC-  
23 ESS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The initial certification and  
25 recertification of a patient safety organization under



1 subsection (b)(1)(A) shall be made under a process  
2 that is approved by the Secretary and is consistent  
3 with criteria published by the Secretary.

4 “(2) REVOCATION.—Such a certification or re-  
5 certification may be revoked by the Secretary upon  
6 a showing of cause (including the disclosure of data  
7 in violation of section 1182).

8 “(3) TERMINATION.—Such a certification pro-  
9 vided for a patient safety organization shall termi-  
10 nate (subject to recertification) on the earlier of—

11 “(A) the date that is 3 years after the date  
12 on which such certification was provided; or

13 “(B) the date on which the Secretary re-  
14 vokes the certification.

15 “(d) IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSULTATION.—In  
16 carrying out subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall—

17 “(1) facilitate the development of patient safety  
18 goals and track the progress made in meeting those  
19 goals; and

20 “(2) ensure that data submitted by a patient  
21 safety organization to the Patient Safety Database,  
22 as provided for under subsection (e), are comparable  
23 and useful for research and analysis and that the re-  
24 search findings and patient safety alerts that result  
25 from such analyses are presented in clear and con-

1       sistent formats that enhance the usefulness of such  
2       alerts.

3       “(e) PATIENT SAFETY DATABASE.—

4             “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

5                     “(A) establish a Patient Safety Database  
6                     to collect non-identifiable information con-  
7                     cerning patient safety that is reported on a vol-  
8                     untary basis; and

9                     “(B) establish common formats for the vol-  
10                    untary reporting of data under subparagraph  
11                    (A), including the establishment of necessary  
12                    data elements, common and consistent defini-  
13                    tions, and a standardized computer interface  
14                    for the processing of such data.

15             “(2) DATABASE.—In carrying out this sub-  
16       section, the Secretary—

17                     “(A) shall establish and modify as nec-  
18                     essary criteria to determine the organizations  
19                     that may voluntarily contribute to, and the data  
20                     that comprises, the Patient Safety Database;

21                     “(B) shall ensure that the Patient Safety  
22                     Database is only used by qualified entities or  
23                     individuals as determined appropriate by the  
24                     Secretary in accordance with criteria applied by  
25                     the Secretary; and



1 and the increased efficiencies in providing such care  
2 achieved under the standards.

3 “(b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-  
4 retary shall develop and update such standards in con-  
5 sultation with (and with coordination between)—

6 “(1) the National Committee for Vital and  
7 Health Statistics, and

8 “(2) the Medical Information Technology Advi-  
9 sory Board (established under section 3 of the Pa-  
10 tient Safety Improvement Act of 2003).

11 “(c) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall provide  
12 for the dissemination of the standards developed and up-  
13 dated under this section.

14 “(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall transfer from  
15 the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established  
16 under section 1817 such sums as are necessary for each  
17 fiscal year to carry out this section.

18 “VOLUNTARY ADOPTION OF METHODS TO IMPROVE  
19 PATIENT SAFETY

20 “SEC. 1185. The Secretary shall encourage health  
21 care providers to adopt appropriate evidence-based meth-  
22 ods to improve patient safety. Such methods shall not con-  
23 stitute national practice guidelines.

24 “EVALUATION AND REPORT

25 “SEC. 1186. (a) EVALUATION.—The Comptroller  
26 General of the United States shall conduct a comprehen-

1 sive evaluation of the implementation of this part. Such  
2 evaluation shall include an examination of the following:

3           “(1) The health care providers that reported  
4 patient safety data under this part and the patient  
5 safety organizations to which they reported the in-  
6 formation.

7           “(2) What types of events were so reported on.

8           “(3) The usefulness of the analyses, informa-  
9 tion, and recommendations provided by patient safe-  
10 ty organizations in response to such reported infor-  
11 mation.

12           “(4) The response of health care providers to  
13 such analyses, information, and recommendations,  
14 including a survey of providers to obtain estimates  
15 of the percentage of providers by category who have  
16 adopted specific error-reduction methods and, if ap-  
17 plicable, reasons for not adopting specific practices.

18           “(5) The effectiveness of the program under  
19 this part in reducing medical errors.

20           “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date  
21 the provisions of this part are first implemented, the  
22 Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on  
23 the evaluation conducted under subsection (a).”.

1 **SEC. 3. MEDICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY**  
2 **BOARD.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Health and Human Services (in this sec-  
7 tion referred to as the “Secretary”) shall appoint an  
8 advisory board to be known as the “Medical Infor-  
9 mation Technology Advisory Board” (in this section  
10 referred to as the “MITAB”).

11 (2) CHAIRMAN.—The Secretary shall designate  
12 one member as chairman. The chairman shall be an  
13 individual affiliated with an organization having ex-  
14 pertise creating American National Standards Insti-  
15 tute (ANSI) accepted standards in health care infor-  
16 mation technology and a member of the National  
17 Committee for Vital and Health Statistics.

18 (b) COMPOSITION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The MITAB shall consist of  
20 not more than 17 members that include—

21 (A) experts from the fields of medical in-  
22 formation, information technology, medical con-  
23 tinuous quality improvement, medical records  
24 security and privacy, individual and institu-  
25 tional health care clinical providers, health re-  
26 searchers, and health care purchasers;

1 (B) one or more staff experts from each of  
2 the following: the Centers for Medicare & Med-  
3 icaid Services, the Agency for Healthcare Re-  
4 search and Quality, and the Institute of Medi-  
5 cine of the National Academy of Sciences;

6 (C) representatives of private organizations  
7 with expertise in medical infomatics;

8 (D) a representative of a teaching hospital;  
9 and

10 (E) one or more representatives of the  
11 health care information technology industry.

12 (2) TERMS OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of  
13 any appointment under paragraph (1) to the  
14 MITAB shall be for the life of the MITAB.

15 (3) MEETINGS.—The MITAB shall meet at the  
16 call of its chairman or a majority of its members.

17 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the MITAB  
18 shall be filled in the same manner in which the origi-  
19 nal appointment was made not later than 30 days  
20 after the MITAB is given notice of the vacancy and  
21 shall not affect the power of the remaining members  
22 to execute the duties of the MITAB.

23 (5) COMPENSATION.—Members of the MITAB  
24 shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or bene-  
25 fits by reason of their service on the MITAB.

1           (6) EXPENSES.—Each member of the MITAB  
2 shall receive travel expenses and per diem in lieu of  
3 subsistence in accordance with sections 5702 and  
4 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

5           (c) DUTIES.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—The MITAB shall on an on-  
7 going basis advise, and make recommendations to,  
8 the Secretary regarding medical information tech-  
9 nology, including the following:

10                   (A) The best current practices in medical  
11 information technology.

12                   (B) Methods for the adoption (not later  
13 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of  
14 this section) of a uniform health care informa-  
15 tion system interface between and among old  
16 and new computer systems.

17                   (C) Recommendations for health care vo-  
18 cabulary, messaging, and other technology  
19 standards (including a common lexicon for com-  
20 puter technology) necessary to achieve the  
21 interoperability of health care information sys-  
22 tems for the purposes described in subpara-  
23 graph (E).

24                   (D) Methods of implementing—



1 (i) health care information technology  
2 interoperability standardization; and

3 (ii) records security.

4 (E) Methods to promote information ex-  
5 change among health care providers so that  
6 long-term compatibility among information sys-  
7 tems is maximized, in order to do one or more  
8 of the following:

9 (i) To maximize positive outcomes in  
10 clinical care—

11 (I) by providing decision support  
12 for diagnosis and care; and

13 (II) by assisting in the emer-  
14 gency treatment of a patient pre-  
15 senting at a facility where there is no  
16 medical record for the patient.

17 (ii) To contribute to (and be con-  
18 sistent with) the development of the pa-  
19 tient assessment instrument provided for  
20 under section 545 of the Medicare, Med-  
21 icaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement  
22 and Protection Act of 2000, and to assist  
23 in minimizing the need for new and dif-  
24 ferent records as patients move from pro-  
25 vider to provider.

1 (iii) To reduce or eliminate the need  
2 for redundant records, paperwork, and the  
3 repetitive taking of patient histories and  
4 administering of tests.

5 (iv) To minimize medical errors, such  
6 as administration of contraindicated drugs.

7 (v) To provide a compatible informa-  
8 tion technology architecture that facilitates  
9 future quality and cost-saving needs and  
10 that avoids the financing and development  
11 of information technology systems that are  
12 not readily compatible.

13 (2) REPORTS.—

14 (A) INITIAL REPORT.—No later than 18  
15 months after the date of the enactment of this  
16 Act, the MITAB shall submit to Congress and  
17 the Secretary an initial report concerning the  
18 matters described in paragraph (1). The report  
19 shall include—

20 (i) the practices described in para-  
21 graph (1)(A), including the status of  
22 health care information technology stand-  
23 ards being developed by private sector and  
24 public-private groups;

1 (ii) recommendations for accelerating  
2 the development of common health care  
3 terminology standards;

4 (iii) recommendations for completing  
5 development of health care information  
6 system messaging standards; and

7 (iv) progress toward meeting the  
8 deadline described in paragraph (1)(B) for  
9 adoption of methods described in such  
10 paragraph.

11 (B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—During each  
12 of the 2 years after the year in which the report  
13 is submitted under subparagraph (A), the  
14 MITAB shall submit to Congress and the Sec-  
15 retary an annual report relating to additional  
16 recommendations, best practices, results of in-  
17 formation technology improvements, analyses of  
18 private sector efforts to implement the inter-  
19 operability standards established in section  
20 1184 of the Social Security Act, and such other  
21 matters as may help ensure the most rapid dis-  
22 semination of best practices in health care in-  
23 formation technology.

24 (d) STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.—

25 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

1 (A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chairman shall  
2 appoint an executive director of the MITAB.

3 (B) COMPENSATION.—The executive direc-  
4 tor shall be paid the rate of basic pay for level  
5 V of the Executive Schedule.

6 (2) STAFF.—With the approval of the MITAB,  
7 the executive director may appoint such personnel as  
8 the executive director considers appropriate.

9 (3) APPLICABILITY OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—  
10 The staff of the MITAB shall be appointed without  
11 regard to the provisions of title 5, United States  
12 Code, governing appointments in the competitive  
13 service, and shall be paid without regard to the pro-  
14 visions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter  
15 53 of such title (relating to classification and Gen-  
16 eral Schedule pay rates).

17 (4) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the  
18 approval of the MITAB, the executive director may  
19 procure temporary and intermittent services under  
20 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

21 (e) POWERS.—

22 (1) HEARINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—For  
23 the purpose of carrying out its duties, the MITAB  
24 may hold such hearings and undertake such other

1 activities as the MITAB determines to be necessary  
2 to carry out its duties.

3 (2) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Upon  
4 the request of the MITAB, the head of any Federal  
5 agency is authorized to detail, without reimburse-  
6 ment, any of the personnel of such agency to the  
7 MITAB to assist the MITAB in carrying out its du-  
8 ties. Any such detail shall not interrupt or otherwise  
9 affect the civil service status or privileges of the  
10 Federal employee.

11 (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon the re-  
12 quest of the MITAB, the head of a Federal agency  
13 shall provide such technical assistance to the  
14 MITAB as the MITAB determines to be necessary  
15 to carry out its duties.

16 (4) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The MITAB  
17 may secure directly from any Federal agency infor-  
18 mation necessary to enable it to carry out its duties,  
19 if the information may be disclosed under section  
20 552 of title 5, United States Code. Upon request of  
21 the Chairman of the MITAB, the head of such agen-  
22 cy shall furnish such information to the MITAB.

23 (f) TERMINATION.—The MITAB shall terminate 30  
24 days after the date of submission of its final report under  
25 subsection (e)(2)(B).

1           (g) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The provisions of the  
2 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall  
3 apply to the MITAB.

4           (h) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall transfer from the  
5 Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under  
6 section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i)  
7 such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year to carry  
8 out this section.