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Dear Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton,

I am writing to applaud 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," through your Committee. This bill would establish a process to set interoperable standards for health information technology (HIT).

Verizon provides health care coverage to over 900,000 employees, retirees and their dependents and we believe that the nation's health care system will benefit greatly by the technologies that have worked so well in transforming the telecommunications business and many other industries. H.R. 6357 recognizes the vital role information technology can play in improving quality, reducing errors, empowering consumers by enabling price transparency and slowing the increasing cost of health care.

We appreciate your commitment to continue to work on the bill as it works its way through the legislative process. We hope that the bill can be brought to the floor in an expeditious manner, so that it can be signed into law this year. With over 100,000 deaths from preventable medical errors and potential annual savings of over \$80 billion, Americans can't afford any delay in enacting this initiative.

We appreciate your work in developing solutions to encourage the adoption of health IT and to make health care more affordable for everyone. We look forward to working with you on efforts to ensure that our health care system is one in which all Americans can receive consistent, high quality care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Davidson", written over a red line.

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee