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July 22, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member:

The Information Technology Industry Council applauds you for working to pass a comprehensive health IT bill that will help facilitate the widespread adoption of interoperable health information technology and a standards-based health information network. We believe the PRO(TECH)T Act of 2008 is a step in the right direction, and we encourage the Committee to report it as soon as possible.

We are pleased the PRO(TECH)T Act establishes a framework for identifying and adopting interoperability standards, puts in place purchasing requirements for the Federal government, provides financial incentives to facilitate the adoption of qualified health IT and will help all Americans have access to portable electronic health records by 2014. However, as the PRO(TECH)T Act moves through the legislative process, we look forward to working with you to ensure the bill's data breach notification section is technology neutral and Title III creates an appropriate level of liability for business associates.

We believe it is time to pass meaningful legislation that will accelerate investment in health information technology and improve the quality of care in the United States. Passing the PRO(TECH)T Act in the Energy and Commerce Committee will help us reach that goal.

Sincerely,

Rhett Dawson
President
Information Technology Industry Council