

June 14, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The undersigned business organizations strongly support the adoption of legislation this year that would promote and advance the widespread adoption of health information technology.

The business community recognizes that health information technology is absolutely indispensable to improving our nation's health care system. A nationwide network of electronic health information promises to reduce medical errors and administrative costs, leading to a dramatic improvement in the quality, cost and delivery of health care. By supporting and passing health information technology legislation, Congress can save both lives and dollars.

To that end, it is imperative that Congress take steps to ensure that standards for interoperability are adopted. Only through a truly interoperable, nationwide system of electronic exchange will the benefits of health information technology be realized. Through its leadership on this issue, Congress can provide much-needed certainty and direction which will help spur private sector investment in health information technology. By continuing to work together, the private and public sectors can achieve this crucial goal.

This is a rare instance of a health care issue that has broad consensus. The business community is united in its support for legislative action. As Congress considers H.R. 4157, we strongly urge that it take advantage of this opportunity and make widespread health information technology a reality. The future of our nation's health care system depends on it.

Sincerely,

American Benefits Council
Business Roundtable
Corporate Health Care Coalition
HR Policy Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Business Group on Health
National Federation of Independent Business
National Retail Federation
The ERISA Industry Committee
U.S. Chamber of Commerce