



July 11, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the more than 3,600 members of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), we would like to congratulate you on the introduction of H.R 6357, the "Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment, and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology Act". The promotion of health information technology is an essential first step to transforming our nation's healthcare system and AMIA applauds your recognition of this needed advancement.

In recent years, numerous reports have demonstrated the lack of a health information technology workforce will be a barrier to the adoption of health information technology. It is estimated the workforce demand will grow to more than 40,000 in the coming years.

AMIA supports the amendment offered by Representative David Wu that seeks to develop a health information technology workforce by providing grants to institutions of higher education through the National Science Foundation. This amendment is based on H.R. 1467, the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act, which passed the House in June of 2007 by voice vote. AMIA believes this language is a positive step towards building the appropriate health information technology workforce.

AMIA supports the amendment be made in order for consideration on the floor, and encourages its adoption as part of the PRO(TECH)T Act. We believe inclusion of this Amendment will vastly improve the quality, safety, efficiency, effectiveness, timeliness, and coordination of health care in the United States.

The American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) is comprised of the founders of the field of health informatics, current innovators in the field, and individuals from both

the public and private sector who apply health informatics solutions to meet their patient needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any assistance in helping to explain the importance of this Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Eugene Detmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Don Detmer, MD, MA
President and CEO
American Medical Informatics Association