



03 April 2008

The Honorable Dennis Moore
1727 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore:

IEEE-USA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for introducing H. R. 2991, the *Independent Health Record Trust Act of 2007*, into the House of Representatives. H.R. 2991 encourages and facilitates the development of independent (non-governmental) repositories for electronic medical records owned by the patient.

IEEE-USA strongly favors the establishment of mechanisms by which the patient has a set of medical records which he or she owns, and development of regional and national health information networks by which such records can be made available to any emergency room or other healthcare provider, at the request of the patient. This bill provides a well crafted essential component of what hopefully will become a national health information network. Attached is our position statement on the establishment of the National Health Information Network, which can also be viewed a <http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/positions/NHIN.asp>

While this bill represents a first step toward enabling healthcare consumers to manage their own healthcare in a responsible and cost-efficient manner, more work needs to be done to fully empower the healthcare consumer. We need to ensure that all healthcare consumers have access to an accurate and comprehensive personal healthcare record that enables them to understand and manage their individual healthcare needs throughout their lives. We need to guarantee that such access is not limited to the privileged few, but available to all, regardless of age, condition of health, or economic status. Finally, we must provide safeguards against fraud and invasion of privacy.

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Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre
President, IEEE-USA

RJL/dr:bc