



19 May 2008

The Honorable Bart Gordon  
Chair, House Committee on Science and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The IEEE-USA would like to take this opportunity to thank you for introducing your bill, HR.2406, "Healthcare Information Technology Enterprise Integration Act." As an organization of technical professionals, we understand the vital role that interoperability will play in implementing next-generation healthcare information technology, and we feel that the participation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will accelerate this process.

IEEE-USA is deeply concerned about the state of our healthcare system and believes significant changes are necessary. We believe that development of a National Health Information Network (NHIN), adoption of an online electronic health record (EHR), and providing patient access to and control over personal health information by means of a Personal Health Record (PHR), will help to increase the efficiency of our healthcare system, restrain rising healthcare costs, and reduce medical errors. However, implementation of these next-generation technologies depends upon the coordinated development of interoperability.

We strongly support the establishment of multidisciplinary Centers for Healthcare Information Enterprise Integration to perform cutting-edge research in fields related to health information technology, and the competitive grants that will be made available to qualifying institutions under this program. This initiative will help to ensure that the US remains at the forefront in developing new healthcare-related technologies and improving the quality of delivered healthcare.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE. It was created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public policy interests of the more than 215,000 electrical, electronics, computer and software engineers who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Deborah Rudolph in our Washington office at (202) 785-0017 x 8332 or email at [d.rudolph@ieee.org](mailto:d.rudolph@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre  
President, IEEE-USA

RJL/

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