



19 May 2008

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
205 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

The IEEE-USA would like to take this opportunity to thank you for introducing your bill, HR.3800, "*Promoting Health Information Technology Act.*" As an organization of technical professionals, we understand and fully support the use of leading-edge information technology to ensure the quality and reliability of healthcare delivery systems, while respecting the privacy and security of patient health information and improving the cost-efficiency of healthcare.

We support the activities of a public-private American Health Information Community to foster policies for the adoption of health information technology. IEEE-USA feels that this approach would not only hasten the development, but also provide a means for guaranteeing interoperability. The private sector aspect of such an organization would encourage the rapid development and deployment of the necessary technologies.

We also support awarding grants to eligible entities to facilitate the purchase and enhance the utilization of health information technology systems, as described in Title II, "*Facilitating the Widespread Adoption of Interoperable Health Information Technology,*" as well as the incentive grants for Telehealth Services described in Title V. IEEE-USA feels that providing such support will improve the quality of healthcare in underserved areas, and enable small private practice clinics to share in the benefits of modern health information technology. We encourage development of an efficient and stream-lined application process specifically geared toward small clinics and applicants in underserved areas.

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.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre
President, IEEE-USA

RJL/dr:bc