

June 16, 2008

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
727 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The IEEE-USA would like to take this opportunity to endorse your bill, "*Wired for Health Care Quality Act*" (S.1693). 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 establishment of a public-private American Health Information Community to identify uniform national data standards and implementation policies for the adoption of health information technology. IEEE-USA feels that this approach would not only hasten the development of health information technology standards, 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 technology.

We also support the awarding of 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.

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