



21 August 2008

Ms. Zoë Baird
President
The Markle Foundation
10 Rockefeller Plaza
16th Floor
New York, NY 10020-1903

Dear Ms. Baird:

IEEE-USA would like to take this opportunity to endorse the principles set forth in Connecting for Health: Common Framework for Networked Personal Health Information.

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 health care provider, at the request of the patient. We feel that the personal health record is an essential component of what hopefully will become a national health information network. You can view our position statement on the establishment of the National Health Information Network at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/positions/NHIN.asp>

We need to ensure that all health care consumers have access to an accurate and comprehensive personal health care record that enables them to understand and manage their individual health care 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.

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) 530-8332 or email at d.rudolph@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Lefevre
IEEE-USA President

RJL/dr:bc