AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

March 5, 2009

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
General Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

VIA EMAIL TO HITCommittee@gao.gov

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

On behalf of the more than 94,000 members of the American Academy Family Physicians, we are pleased to nominate Steven Walden, MD and David Kibbe, MD to the Health Information Technology (HIT) Policy Committee established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We also support the nomination of Peter Basch, MD, which is being put forward by the American College of Physicians. We urge you to consider Dr. Walden for the health care provider physician slot, Dr. Kibbe for the position with the expertise in health information privacy and security and Dr. Basch as a second alternative for the physician category. Dr. Walden's and Dr. Kibbe's CVs are attached and provide greater detail on their background in this area.

The AAFP has led the way among physician organizations to encourage adoption of HIT and, in fact, created a Center for Health Information Technology to promote and facilitate the adoption and optimal use of HIT to improve health care quality, enhance patient safety, and increase practice efficiency to benefit both patients and physicians. While family physicians make up only 7 percent of the physician workforce, AAFP members are responsible for nearly one quarter of all ambulatory care visits in this country, approximately 220 million patient visits per year. Nearly 50 percent of our members already have made a significant investment in electronic medical records, far higher than any other medical specialty society. Thus, family medicine has a strong interest in using HIT to provide coordinated, high-quality and safe health care to all Americans.

It is with this perspective and long-term involvement that we offer the following candidates for your consideration.

Steven Walden, MD, MS
Steven E. Waldren, M.D., is director of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Center for Health IT with experience that would serve him well as a physician member of the HIT Policy Committee. His in-depth knowledge of health information systems, programming and software, and medical informatics make him a well-qualified expert to help develop a policy framework for a national HIT infrastructure. Dr. Waldren serves as co-chair of the Physicians' EHR Coalition, a group of representatives from more than 20 professional medical associations that address issues related to health care IT and physician practices and is a member of the National Quality Forum's HIT Measure Steering Committee, which seeks to identify and endorse physician performance measures for quality improvement related to EHR use.

Dr. Waldren also serves as vice chair of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)'s E31 Health Information Standards Committee, which is responsible for the development of health care IT standards. He co-founded Open Health Data whose mission is to promote health care data reuse through the development and utilization of open source products and services and is a member and past co-chair of the Ambulatory Functionality Working Group of the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology.

Dr. Waldren also serves currently in the following capacities:

- Co-chair of the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance's Data Aggregation and HIT Subcommittee.
- Member of the Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM) working group on PDF/H – a best practices standard for PDF in healthcare.
- Member of the American National Standards Institute-Health Care Information Technology Standards Panel (ANSI-HITSP).
- Member of the Certification Commission on Health IT Ambulatory Working Group.
- Co-founder of www.ccrstandard.com.
- Member of *Healthcare IT News* Editorial Advisory Board.

Dr. Waldren is a board-certified family physician who has a master's degree in health care informatics from the University of Missouri, Columbia and completed a National Library of Medicine Postdoctoral Medical Informatics Research Fellowship. He has presented at more than 30 national conferences in the past three years alone and has co-authored scholarly articles that have been published in several peer-reviewed publications.

David C. Kibbe, MD, MBA
Dr. Kibbe is well known as an innovator and independent mind in the field of health information technology in the United States with a background that makes him ideally suited for the health information privacy and security slot on the HIT Policy Committee. A respected technologist, entrepreneur, and co-developer of the ASTM Continuity of Care Record, CCR, standard -- which utilizes XML for interoperable health information exchange -- he also is an experienced clinician who practiced medicine in private and academic settings for more than 15 years, while teaching informatics at the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is co-author of the best-selling AMA publication *A Field Guide to HIPAA Implementation*, and is widely considered one of the most knowledgeable experts on privacy and security for medical practices. He has started two medical software companies, and in 2005 was voted one of the 50 Most Powerful Physician Executives in Healthcare by readers of the magazine *Modern Physician*. Dr. Kibbe is a frequently sought after as a speaker on topics that range from the privacy and security of health data exchange to the economics of small practice adoption of EMRs, to Web 2.0 applications applied to consumer health care delivery.

Dr. Kibbe was the founding Director of the Center for Health Information Technology for the AAFP and remains affiliated with the Academy as a Senior Advisor to the Center. Dr. Kibbe currently serves on a number of national boards and workgroups involved in HIT standards and certification. His current responsibilities include the following positions:

- Project Director, Doctors Office Quality – Information Technology (DOQ-IT) Under contract with Lumetra, the Quality Improvement Organization in California, and with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, from 2003-2005;
- Co-chair, Chair, Data Sharing and Aggregation Workgroup of the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance (AQA, 2003-06;
- Co-chair and founder, Physicians Electronic Health Records Coalition (PEHRC);
- Co-chair, eHealthInitiative Workgroup on HIT in Small Medical Practices;
- Member, Secretary, ASTM International E.31 Healthcare Informatics Committee and E31.28 Subcommittee;
- Member, Advisory Panel "Establishing a Foundation for Medicaid's Role in the Adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT)" funded by AHRQ, University of Massachusetts Center for Health Policy Research, 2005;
- Member, Steering Committee of the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) National Resources Center for HIT;
- Member, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Health Information Technology Advisory Panel;
- Member, Interoperability Workgroup of the Commission on Certification for HIT (CCHIT), 2004-06;
- Member, National Institute of Health (NIH) Roadmap Interoperability and IT Strategies Working Group

Dr. Kibbe has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and several book chapters on computer security, HIPAA, and e-health and is a widely respected blogger on health IT and privacy policy. He is a frequent speaker on HIPAA privacy and security compliance for clinical audiences around the country. Dr. Kibbe received his BA from Harvard University, MD from Case-Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and his MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Peter Basch, MD
The American Academy of Family Physicians supports the nomination of Peter Basch, MD, who is being supported by the American College of Physicians. Dr. Basch is well respected in the medical and health information technology communities. He brings "real-world," clinical experience in primary care and electronic health records, which will add significantly to the Health Information Technology Policy Committee. Dr. Basch's track record in many national health information technology entities demonstrates his ability to craft meaningful health information technology policy.

Sincerely,

Jim King, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair