



American Academy of Family Physicians

November 11, 2005

The Honorable Nancy Johnson
Chair Health Subcommittee
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chairman:

On behalf of 94,000 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, thank you for your efforts to help advance adoption of health information technology (HIT). We support your efforts to create a stable IT infrastructure that will that help improve the quality of health care delivery.

AAFP supports your efforts to codify the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT). We believe this effort demonstrates a level of commitment to ensure this technology moves forward and we applaud the recommendation that this office will be responsible for certification and inspection of health information technology products to ensure they conform to interoperable standards. We also support the provisions to carve out safe harbors for sharing information technology. Performed according to the guidelines detailed in your legislation, these safe harbors will help family physicians in solo or small group practices secure this technology.

We would again encourage you to consider language designating the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) as an acceptable coding source. The ICPC was first published in 1987 by the World Organization of Family Doctors and has been accepted by the World Health Organization (WHO) Family of International Classifications as a related classification for health information in primary care. ICPC is a concise, appropriate and comprehensive classification for family medicine and is fully mapped and compatible with ICD-10.

We appreciate your leadership on this and many other issues related to patient safety and care. We look forward to working with you on passage of this important legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


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