

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:


On behalf of the Siemens Corporation, we applaud your leadership in introducing H.R. 3800, the "Promoting Health Information Technology Act." Siemens' medical products provide comprehensive and broad-based solutions that simultaneously improve quality and lower costs. The company is also a global leader in power, automation and control, lighting, building and water technologies. Nine of Siemens' global businesses are based in the United States.

Siemens strongly supports your efforts to develop the right public policies that will create the incentives and strengthen marketplace opportunities to drive adoption of life saving medical technologies. There is well-documented evidence that health information technologies reduce medical errors, improve delivery of quality health care, and have the potential to substantially lower costs.

H.R. 3800 would codify the Office of National Coordinator of health information technology within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In our view, this role is important to enable a central organization within the federal government to develop and implement a strategic, metrics-based plan to drive adoption of information technology. The bill would establish a consensus process to develop standardized quality measures that could use information technology that would enable consumers to select care with more knowledge about quality. The bill would also provide greater resources to deploy health information technology in the neediest hospital settings and promote the collaboration of the private and public sectors in developing the standards necessary to implement interoperable health information technology.

Siemens looks forward to working with you to move this important legislation through Congress. It is undeniable that health information technology can improve patients' lives as they move through the health care environment. Thank you for recognizing the importance of bringing the healthcare market into the Internet/Information Age.

Sincerely,



George Nolen