



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

November 12, 2007

The Honorable Herb Kohl
United States Senator
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

Dear Senator Kohl:

I would like to express my support for S. 1693, the "Wired for Health Care Quality Act." An electronic health (eHealth) information infrastructure will improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care in the United States. The "Wired for Health Care Quality Act" addresses the barriers to widespread adoption of interoperable health information technology.

In November 2005, I signed Executive Order #129 to establish the Wisconsin eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board. A statewide eHealth infrastructure will ensure that health information is available at the point of care for all patients, reduce medical errors and avoid duplicative medical procedures, improve coordination of care between hospitals, physicians, and other health professionals, further health care research, and provide consumers with their health information to encourage greater participation in their health care decisions.

Last year the eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board developed and is implementing a 5-year Action Plan to achieve 100% electronic health record system adoption by health care providers and health data exchange between payers, health care providers, consumers of health care, researchers, and government agencies as appropriate to improve health care quality and efficiency. S. 1693 will assist Wisconsin's efforts by:

- Incorporating decision support in the definition of qualified health information technology,
- Establishing the Partnership for Health Care Improvement to recommend specific technical standards, and specifications to achieve nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure,
- Directing the development, adoption, and use of quality measures to measure the quality and efficiency of health care patients receive,
- Ensuring privacy of health information through the application of the regulations promulgated under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to new types of entities that have arisen as a result of new health information technology,

- Developing a Health Information Technology Resource Center to provide technical assistance and develop best practices to support and accelerate States' and health care providers' efforts to adopt, implement, and effectively use health information technology that complies with the standards and quality measurement system adopted by the Federal government, and
- Authorizing three grant programs to lower the cost barriers to implementation of health information technology and facilitate widespread adoption.

I fully support this legislation and strongly encourage your endorsement. S. 1693 provides for a Federal eHealth organizational structure, technical standards and specifications for nationwide interoperable health information technology, a health care quality measurement framework, and funding that will greatly assist in advancing our eHealth agenda in the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Doyle" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Doyle
Governor