

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2013

Dear health information technology stakeholders and members of the public,

We write to seek your feedback on federal progress promoting health information technology adoption and standards. Health information technology (health IT) is rapidly changing, altering the status quo for health care delivery in the United States. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included the Health Information Technology and Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act which aimed to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health IT. Since the passage of the HITECH Act in 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released hundreds of pages of regulations to implement the program. In addition, \$35 billion over ten years will be spent to implement this program.

The HITECH Act was enacted to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health IT. The goal is to create a secure network in which hospitals and providers can share patient data nationwide. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether the HITECH Act has expanded the use of health IT in a meaningful, effective way. We have significant concerns with the implementation of the HITECH Act to date, including the lack of data to support the Administration's assertions that this taxpayer investment is being appropriately spent and actually achieving the goal of interoperable health IT.

To begin a discussion of these health IT programs, today we released "REBOOT: Re-examining the Strategies Needed to Successfully Adopt Health IT." This white paper outlines our concerns with current health IT policy, including interoperability, increased costs, potential waste and abuse, patient privacy, and sustainability.

In order to evaluate the current return on taxpayer investment in health IT and ensure that health IT programs are effectively implemented, we are soliciting feedback from all health IT stakeholders and members of the public. We respectfully ask for feedback on "REBOOT: Re-examining the Strategies Needed to Successfully Adopt Health IT" from anyone who wishes to submit comments, including health care providers, patients, electronic health record vendors, scholars, or interested members of the public. We hope stakeholders can provide information about the areas of concern we have identified, any additional areas of concern, and potential solutions to improve HITECH implementation.

Letter to Stakeholders on Health IT
April 16, 2013

We ask that feedback be sent to HealthIT_CommentPeriod@thune.senate.gov by May 16, 2013. We hope this process will begin a robust dialogue on how best to achieve the promise of health IT in the future.

Sincerely,



Senator Lamar Alexander



Senator Richard Burr



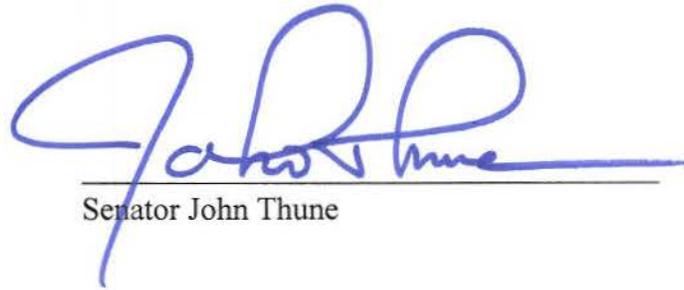
Senator Tom Coburn



Senator Mike Enzi



Senator Pat Roberts



Senator John Thune