



417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224
FAX 717 230-8733
www.pachamber.org

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Anthony M. DeLuca
Chairman, House Insurance Committee
PA House of Representatives
115 Irvis Office Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2032

RE: House Bill 2106 -- Electronic Medical Records

Dear Chairman DeLuca:

Thank you for your invitation to provide comments on House Bill 2106 which seeks to create a Health Information Exchange for the implementation of electronic medical records within our health care system.

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the Commonwealth's largest broad based business advocacy association representing thousands of businesses from sole proprietors to fortune 100 companies. The Chamber and its members have been integrally involved in the health care reform debate over the past several months and will continue to engage as the federal law is implemented. The Chamber supports a robust employer-sponsored health insurance system that is available and affordable to all employees. The business community also encourages a move towards consumer focused health care with an emphasis on prevention and wellness. Our health care delivery system is flawed and, in order to improve quality, we need to move from fee for service to outcome based measures. Our view is that health information technology is a crucial building block to improving the delivery of healthcare.

Businesses (large and small), government, the health insurance industry and other segments of the healthcare sector have long seen greater implementation of health IT as key to reducing medical errors and streamlining the healthcare delivery system, both of which hold the promise of reducing the skyrocketing costs of medical care. One of the most commonly cited goals that could be spurred by increased investment is the shift to electronic medical records. This will achieve a number of ends at once: it cuts paper costs and also reduces the likelihood of errors in prescriptions and in the transfer of data between hospitals--flaws that

can cause medical errors and prompt the need for expensive ongoing care. This will also improve coordination among health providers electronically, including requiring all medical paperwork and billing transactions to follow uniform standards.

It is essential that we move healthcare into the 21st century through health information technology. The benefits are clear. Updated, accurate, and comprehensive patient information at the point of care will prevent medical errors and will allow physicians, nurses, and providers to make better, more informed decisions. Electronic access to information will reduce duplicative and unnecessary tests and treatments. Automating cumbersome, manual processes will streamline workflow, eliminate inefficiencies, and lower costs.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you and other lawmakers to implement a successful health information network to achieve the above stated goals. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Floyd Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Floyd Warner
President