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January 18, 2005

David Brailer, MD, Ph.D.
National Coordinator
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC

Dear Dr. Brailer:

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Electronic Health Record Vendor Association (EHRVA) endorses the collaboration of 13 nonprofit organizations offering a joint response to the Request for Information by the U.S. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT). An unprecedented industry effort, the collaborative process undertaken by this group has resulted in a clinically and technically sound approach to developing a National Health Information Network.

The collaborative response brought together a diverse group of organizations with one common purpose, achieving improved healthcare delivery through viable healthcare information technology solutions. Over seven weeks, the 13 organizations created a consensus approach for achieving interoperability of HIT solutions through a Common Framework of approaches that addresses common standards, policies, and architecture designs.

The effort put forth by all our organizations serves as a call to action for the healthcare industry. HIMSS EHRVA is honored to have participated in the collaborative response, and our commitment to supporting national efforts relative to health information interoperability, standards, performance, and quality measures remains steadfast. We stand ready to partner with government and industry to accelerate widespread adoption of interoperable HIT solutions into an achievable national health information network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlene S. Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charlene Underwood, MBA
Director, Government and Industry Affairs
Siemens Medical Solutions
HIMSS EHRVA Chair

Andrew Ury, MD
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