



**The
ERISA
Industry
Committee**

July 26, 2006

Dear Representative:

As the organization representing America's major employers, companies that pay for the healthcare of tens of millions of American workers and their families, The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) is writing to urge the swift passage of H.R. 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act. This bill would reduce Americans' healthcare costs while simultaneously increasing safety, quality and efficiency of care. ERIC urges your support for this critical bill.

The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) is a non-profit trade association committed to the advancement of employee health, retirement, and compensation plans of America's largest employers. We represent exclusively the employee benefits interests of major employers. ERIC's members provide comprehensive retirement, healthcare coverage and other benchmark economic security benefits directly to tens of millions of active and retired workers and their families. ERIC has a strong interest in economic policy affecting our members' ability to deliver those benefits, their cost and their effectiveness, as well as the role of those benefits in America's economy.

It is projected that H.R. 4157 could result in \$165 billion in annual savings—all the while improving access to health care, quality, safety, efficiency, and making healthcare more affordable to more Americans. ERIC and our members want employees to have the best care possible, at the best prices, and H.R. 4157 is a step in the right direction; we need less paperwork, less isolation, more interoperability and more modern healthcare systems.

Moreover, H.R. 4157 promotes healthcare price transparency by incentivizing hospitals to report reimbursement data across all payers. ERIC strongly believes it is imperative that healthcare consumers be able to make informed healthcare decisions—and they deserve to know how much care actually costs and what they are paying for. In order to allow people to make informed, smart consumer decisions, ERIC urges you to protect these provisions and make sure they remain in the final bill.

American employers and their employees need your help to improve our healthcare—ERIC strongly believes that the United States should have the most efficient, advanced, modern, transparent, and safe healthcare system in the world. H.R. 4157 will bring us closer to these goals, and we request your utmost support for the bill and its content.

Sincerely,
Mark Ugoretz
President