



**The
ERISA
Industry
Committee**

March 2, 2007

Dear Representative:

As the organization representing America's major employers, companies that pay for the healthcare coverage of tens of millions of American workers and their families, The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) is writing in support of the Personalized Health Information Act. This bill would help bring the US healthcare system into the 21st century, increasing patient safety and making our system more reliable and effective. ERIC supports the implementation and utilization of Personal Health Records (PHRs) and applauds Congressman Patrick Kennedy for introducing this legislation.

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.

ERIC and its member companies have been working diligently to promote the medical home model, bringing the patient to the center of healthcare. The disasters of Hurricane Katrina and Rita served as stark reminders that hastily-scribbled records locked in file cabinets in flooded basements are a dangerous and unnecessary liability in the information age. Major employers support interoperable and portable PHRs that will prevent accidents such as patients being given conflicting medicines or receiving treatments they are known to be allergic to.

The Personalized Health Information Act strikes an important balance between technological convenience and privacy protections, deferring to HIPAA and the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. ERIC has long been calling for incentives for doctors that provide quality, innovative, and modern care, and views PHRs as an integral part of the overall strategy to achieve the high-quality care that major employers want for their employees.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwina Rogers".

Edwina Rogers
Vice President, Health Policy