



For Immediate Release  
January 29, 2008

Contact: [press@healthitnow.org](mailto:press@healthitnow.org)  
202/572-6205

**President Bush Calls on Congress to Act on Health Information Technology**  
*Health IT Now! Coalition applauds State of the Union appeal for health IT system to save lives and help control spiraling health care costs*

**WASHINGTON** – The Health IT Now! Coalition today commended President Bush for urging Congress to pass legislation promoting health information technology (Health IT).

“Congress must ... promote health information technology,” said President Bush in the national address.

The President further promoted the initiative in a supporting document distributed to the press, titled “Empowering Americans with Affordable Options for Health Care.” In it, the White House asserts that “Health IT systems can give citizens better access to their health information, resulting in informed decisions about their care and a better understanding of the quality of the care they are receiving.”

“We applaud President Bush for calling on Congress to pass Health IT legislation,” said Coalition Co-chair and former U.S. Representative Nancy Johnson.

“We join the President in urging Congress to pass a Health IT bill immediately. The system it helps put in place will save lives, improve patient care and reduce the cost of health care by billions of dollars,” said Representative Johnson.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi further emphasized the broad, bi-partisan support for Health IT when she named the electronic exchange of medical records a “top priority” for legislative action in 2008.

“Health IT is the foundation for a health care delivery system that can provide **all** Americans with the best health care possible,” said Representative Johnson. “In this important speech, the President has called on Congress to pass a Health IT bill and we join him in that call.”

The Health IT Now! Coalition is urging Congress to pass legislation this year that includes: establishment of a public-private process to set Health IT standards; financial incentives to accelerate adoption of Health IT; consumer empowerment through patient education tools; and creation of a federal-state process to address privacy and security issues as Health IT is deployed. Health IT legislation that meets these goals has been

introduced in both houses of Congress.

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*Health IT Now! unites patients, practitioners and employers, working together to take the steps to adopt Health IT now to dramatically improve quality of patient care, consumer convenience and patient health while lowering health care costs.*

*Visit [www.healthITnow.org](http://www.healthITnow.org) to learn more about the coalition, its principles and its membership. Members include:*

*American Academy of Nursing  
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
The American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance  
The American Telemedicine Association  
The Boeing Company  
The Bronx Regional Health Information Organization  
Business Roundtable  
Consumers for Competitive Choice  
The Dow Chemical Company  
FasterCures  
Genetic Alliance  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Latino Coalition  
Marshfield Clinic  
Montefiore Medical Center  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Disease Clusters Alliance  
National Medical Association  
National MS Society  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Retail Federation  
Nortel  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Research!America  
RetireSafe  
Seniors Coalition  
Society for Human Resource Management  
US Oncology  
Verizon*

*Whitman-Walker Clinic  
Women Work!  
World Institute on Disability*

*HealthITNow.org is an organization that educates the public and policymakers on the challenges of our current health care system and the transforming life-saving and cost-saving benefits of health care information technology. As an organization formed within the meaning of section 501(c)(4), contributions to the organization are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.*

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