



May 3, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
U.S. Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch
U.S. Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
U.S. Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Making Available Information Now to Strengthen Trust and Resilience and Enhance Enterprise Technology (MAIN STREET) Cybersecurity Act

Dear Senators Schatz, Risch, Thune, Cantwell and Nelson:

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and the Association for Executives in Healthcare Information Security (AEHIS) are pleased to support the Making Available Information Now to Strengthen Trust and Resilience and Enhance Enterprise Technology (MAIN STREET) Cybersecurity Act. This legislation would provide important resources for small businesses across the economy to help bolster their cybersecurity posture.

CHIME is an executive organization serving more than 2,300 CIOs and other senior health information technology leaders at hospitals and clinics across the nation. CHIME members are responsible for the selection and implementation of clinical and business technology systems that are facilitating healthcare transformation. CHIME members are among the nation's foremost health IT experts including on the topic of cybersecurity. Launched by CHIME in 2014, AEHIS represents more than 600 chief information security officers (CISOs) and provides education and networking for senior IT security leaders in healthcare. CHIME and AEHIS members take their responsibility to protect the privacy and security of patient data and devices networked to their systems very seriously.

The digitization of personal health information and the sharing of data encouraged by the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, has led to an increase in the number and types of cybersecurity threats facing healthcare providers. Meanwhile, providers with very limited resources, struggle to balance the ever-increasing demands for cybersecurity technology and information risk management programs. Threats to healthcare organizations are growing more sophisticated every day and too many health systems are not properly equipped to combat the myriad of attacks that could penetrate their networks.



While a portion of our members may be found in some of the largest and most well-resourced healthcare delivery organizations, a considerable number are in small and rural care environments. Further, in the era of interoperability, sensitive health information is being shared across the healthcare ecosystem, from small physician practices to large academic medical centers, and patients have an expectation that regardless of where the data was generated or is being stored, it must be secure. The ubiquitous sharing of health information has increased the breadth and depth of threats facing all healthcare entities, making the industry only as strong as its weakest link. The MAINSTREET Cybersecurity Act will be of tremendous value to enhance the cybersecurity resources available to healthcare small businesses.

CHIME and AEHIS are proud to support the MAINSTREET Cybersecurity Act. We appreciate your continued interest and leadership on this important and timely subject. We stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to pursue legislative solutions to improve the Nation's cybersecurity readiness. Should you have questions about our position or require additional information, please contact Leslie Krigstein, Vice President of Congressional Affairs, at lkrigstein@chimecentral.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell P. Branzell".

Russell P. Branzell, CHCIO, LCHIME
President and CEO
CHIME