



December 5, 2017

The Honorable Billy Long  
United States House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
United States House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: HHS Cybersecurity Modernization Act

Dear Representatives Long and Matsui:

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and the Association for Executives in Healthcare Information Security (AEHIS) are pleased to support H.R. 4191, the HHS Cybersecurity Modernization Act. The legislation would ensure a greater focus on healthcare cybersecurity within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and across the industry.

CHIME is an executive organization serving more than 2,400 chief information officers (CIOs) and other senior health information technology leaders at hospitals and clinics across the nation. CHIME members are among the nation's foremost health IT experts on topics that include cybersecurity. Within CHIME is AEHIS, an organization launched in 2014 that represents more than 700 chief information security officers (CISOs) and provides education and networking for senior IT security leaders in healthcare. CHIME and AEHIS members take very seriously their responsibility to protect the privacy and security of patient data and devices networked to their systems.

Providers with limited resources struggle to balance the huge 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. We believe that it is imperative that providers are comfortable relying on HHS as the identified sector-specific agency for assistance and education, without fear that the enforcement actions will follow. We commend you for recognizing this complex paradigm and the need to address it.

Further, just as healthcare institutions must coordinate efforts to thwart cyber threats, it is vital that HHS have a coordinated plan to address threats to the data and systems used and housed by the department. We applaud the bill's provision about interagency coordination in hopes of mitigating some of our members' continued concerns about contradictory or unclear guidance from different subdivisions of the department.

We appreciate your continued interest and leadership on this subject. We stand ready to work with you and your colleagues toward the passage of this important legislation, which would assist our continued efforts to secure the nation's healthcare delivery system. Should you have questions about our position or require additional information, please contact Leslie Krigstein, Vice President of Congressional Affairs, at [lkrigstein@chimecentral.org](mailto:lkrigstein@chimecentral.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell P. Branzell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

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