



November 20, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senator
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senator
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senator
455 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senator
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senator
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senator
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of Support for EHR Regulatory Relief Act

Dear Senators Thune, Alexander, Burr, Enzi, Roberts and Cassidy:

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) is pleased to support S. 2059, the EHR Regulatory Relief Act of 2017. The legislation would enable greater flexibility for the participants of the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, also known as Meaningful Use.

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 responsible for the selection and implementation of clinical and business technology systems that are facilitating healthcare transformation. Our members represent some of the earliest and most prolific adopters of electronic health records (EHRs) and other health IT resources for clinicians and patients.

Since enactment of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH), the adoption of electronic health records and health IT has skyrocketed, but interoperability remains elusive. To fully harness the power of health IT across the continuum, additional flexibilities, such as those proposed in the EHR Regulatory Relief Act of 2017, must be woven into both the construct and administration of the Meaningful Use program. Without key refinements to the program, efforts to improve nationwide interoperability and information

exchange will not be possible. We share your concerns about the trajectory of the program and appreciate your efforts to provide greater stability for our members as they navigate transitions to new payment models and the drive toward high-value care that are predicated on high-performing health IT systems.

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 achieve an interoperable 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.

Sincerely,

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

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