



U.S. Senator Herb Kohl  
United States Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

JUL 20 2009

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your letter on April 7, 2009, to the former National Coordinator Dr. Robert Kolodner regarding the accounting for disclosure provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. My apology for the delay in responding to your letter as it was just recently brought to my attention. I would like to respond to your letter.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is currently working with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a solution that both protects patient privacy and does not overburden providers.

I will also be receiving recommendations from two Federal advisory committees, the HIT Policy Committee and the HIT Standards Committee on this issue. The Committees were established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act) to provide recommendations to the National Coordinator. ONC is working with OCR to help guide their drafting and promulgation of this regulation.

Thank you for your support of HHS as we work to implement the health information technology provisions of the Recovery Act. Please contact my office if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Blumenthal".

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP  
National Coordinator  
Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology