

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations; and  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
266 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Aderholt,

As you prepare the FY2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include report language that directs the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to spend \$7 million of the funds appropriated on efforts to improve patient matching.

Specifically, we request that the following report language be included:

*The Committee is concerned there is no consistent and accurate way to link patients to their health information as they seek care across the continuum. Health information must be accurate, timely, and robust to inform clinical care decisions for every patient. ONC should work with industry to develop such matching standards that prioritize interoperability, patient safety, and patient privacy. The Committee directs \$7 million of the funds appropriated to ONC to be used for this purpose in collaboration with industry.*

ONC has identified the need to have agreed upon patient matching metrics and transparent, public reporting associated with patient matching performance to support industry progress and competition. By assigning funds for ONC to use to improve and support patient matching efforts within the US healthcare system, the House of Representatives will continue its bipartisan goal of ensuring patients can be accurately matched to their health information.

We urge the Committee to act to improve the state of patient misidentification in the US, and include this report language in the FY2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

AAHIM Alabama Association of Health Information Management  
ADVION (NASL)  
Alliance for Nursing Informatics

Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP)  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)  
American Medical Informatics Association  
Arizona Health Information Management Association  
Arkansas Health Information Management Association  
California Health Information Association  
CIVITAS Networks for Health  
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
CRISP Shared Services  
DirectTrust  
Duke Center for Health Informatics  
Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA)  
Georgia Health Information Management Association  
Global Patient Identifiers, Inc.  
Harris Data Integrity Solutions/ Just Associates  
HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association  
Intermountain Health  
Kansas Health Information Management Association  
LexisNexis Risk Solutions  
Louisiana Health Information Management Association  
Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA)  
MdHIMA  
Medical Group Management Association  
MeHIMA  
Minnesota Health Information Management Association  
Naphsis  
NDHIMA  
OCHIN  
OHIO Health Information Management Association  
Oklahoma Health Information Management Association  
PacificEast Research Inc.  
Parkview Health  
Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA)  
SCHIMA  
South Dakota HIMA  
Tennessee Health Information Management Association  
Trinity Health  
TxHIMA  
Verato  
Wisconsin Health Information Management Association (WHIMA)