April 24, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito,

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)