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March 30, 2009

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and 20,000 individual and 350+ corporate members of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), we are honored to offer HIMSS support for Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius' nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Obama-Biden Administration. Given the convergence of healthcare reform and the acceleration of steps toward a Nationwide Health Information Network, Governor Sebelius is an exceptional choice to lead HHS in achieving the quality and cost-effective care delivery in the U.S. healthcare system.

For several years, Governor Sebelius has been a vocal supporter of healthcare IT as a resource to enable healthcare efficiencies. As governor, she created the Kansas Health Information Exchange Commission, which has begun coordinating cross-state electronic healthcare data exchange. Her efforts to promote secure solutions for data exchange, along with those of her fellow Kansans, will have a long-lasting impact on healthcare delivery in the state.

HIMSS is confident that Governor Sebelius will be able to translate the state-level effort into activities required to make the healthcare IT components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) a reality. We are confident that Governor Sebelius' initiatives in Kansas and the blueprint for achieving the ARRA are consistent with our December 2008 report, [*Enabling Healthcare Reform Using Information Technology*](#), with particular emphasis on the importance of a properly defined objective for meaningful use of healthcare IT solutions, as well as a continued role for the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) and Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT).

As you move forward on Governor Sebelius' nomination, HIMSS is confident that she is best-suited to lead HHS. We look forward to her confirmation and to working with the Senate and Governor Sebelius to ensure we deliver on healthcare IT components of healthcare reform.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Christian, FHIMSS, FCHIME
HIMSS Chairman of the Board
CIO, Good Samaritan

H. Stephen Lieber, CAE
HIMSS President/CEO