



Position Statement

H.R. 1467

10,000 Trained by 2010 Act

Call to Action

U.S. Representative David Wu (D-OR) introduced H.R. 1467 to the House of Representatives on March 9, 2007 in order to allow for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award grants to encourage institutes of higher education to develop and offer education and training programs for their attendees. The bill was scheduled for debate on May 23, 2007, and passed in the House of Representatives on June 6, 2007 by a voice vote. After the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, a star print was ordered on July 17, 2007.

Section 2 lists the congressional findings that demonstrate the need for the National Science Foundation to support the education and training of information management professionals that will aid the healthcare workforce in the transition to health information technology.

Section 4 calls for two different types of research grants that the NSF shall offer. First, NSF should award merit-based, competitive grants for research in innovative approaches to improve information systems. Next, the bill authorizes the NSF to award merit-based, competitive, multiyear grants to institutes of higher education to develop multidisciplinary Centers for Informatics Research that provide for the innovative approaches to improve information systems through multidisciplinary research in conjunction with government laboratories, for-profit institutions, or non-profit institutions. Appropriations for the funding of these grants are made in this section.

Section 5 provides details for two types of grants for NSF Information Programs, Capacity Building Grants and grants under the Scientific and Advanced Technology Act of 1992. The NSF shall award merit-based, competitive grants to institutes of higher education to develop new or improve existing undergraduate and master's degree programs in information programs. The grants should be awarded to institutions that promote and develop such learning programs through activities that include but are not limited to curriculum development, research facilities, and internship opportunities for students. The programs would be evaluated by the NSF within three years of establishment, and appropriations are made to support said programs. Furthermore, the NSF should provide grants under the Scientific and Advanced Technology Act of 1992.

Closing Remarks

HIMSS supports this legislation which provides funding to the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education to develop and offer education and training programs for HIT professionals. This legislation will help educate

and train the next generation of healthcare clinicians in healthcare information technology practices and the management of information to improve the delivery and quality of care. Questions on this fact position statement should be addressed to Dave Roberts, FHIMSS, HIMSS Vice President for Government Relations, at 703.837.9811 or via email at droberts@himss.org.

