

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 13, 2009

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

As the Department of Health and Human Services considers applications for the Health Information Technology program as funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, I would like to bring to your attention a proposal submitted by Ohio Health Information Partnership (OHIP).

OHIP is a public-private partnership that aims to support healthcare providers in technology adoption and implementation. The partnership intends to function as a regional extension center that would serve the entire state of Ohio. It is my understanding that the project has the support of numerous health professional associations, hospital systems, insurance companies, and state and local government.

The organization has stated that the project's statewide approach is necessary to help ensure that every primary care provider has access to quality support in their health information technology efforts, especially in underserved rural areas of Ohio. Such improvements are essential to increase efficiency and expand the quality of healthcare services in Ohio.

As the Department of Health and Human Services reviews the application, I am confident you will find that the objectives of Ohio Health Information Partnership's application are closely aligned with the goals of the Health Information Technology Extension Program. I respectfully request that the department give serious consideration to the application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator