



TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
U.S. House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology, wishes to thank you for holding a hearing this week to examine the intersection of technology and health care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As the Committee on Energy & Commerce moves forward with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures initiative, we urge you to consider the following:

*Maximize the Benefits of Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring:* A modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare system must leverage innovations in communications technologies. The known benefits of remote patient monitoring, which connects patients and health care providers virtually anytime, anywhere, include improved care, reduced hospitalizations, avoidance of complications and improved satisfaction, particularly for the chronically ill. A recent study also predicted remote monitoring will result in savings of \$36 billion globally by 2018, with North America accounting for 75% of those savings<sup>1</sup>. Opportunities for Congress to bring about great improvements in this area include removing barriers to enhanced telehealth services in Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act<sup>2</sup>.

*More Spectrum is Needed to Keep Pace With Exploding Demand:* TIA would like to commend the Committee for their continued work on freeing up spectrum for commercial use. With a growing number of uses and users, innovative, next-generation devices, applications and services require spectrum availability for fixed and mobile broadband use. This can be achieved through further reallocation of federal spectrum, flexible regulations, and improved spectrum management.

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<sup>1</sup> See Juniper Research, *Mobile Health & Fitness: Monitoring, App-enabled Devices & Cost Savings 2013-2018* (rel. Jul. 17, 2013), available at [http://www.juniperresearch.com/reports/mobile\\_health\\_fitness](http://www.juniperresearch.com/reports/mobile_health_fitness).

<sup>2</sup> See 42 CFR § 410.78. As a recent example, TIA led a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the healthcare space in urging for newly-confirmed HHS Secretary Burwell to waive 1834(m) restrictions on Accountable Care Organizations in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. See <http://bit.ly/1na1UrA>.



*A Regulatory Framework Must Promote Innovation and Increase Regulatory Clarity:* Outdated regulations that have restricted the use of telehealth have long been a hindrance to progress in this space. A flexible framework that carefully balances risk and benefit and provides regulatory clarity will facilitate competition and innovation. TIA also urges Congress to work to ensure coordination across all governmental entities in providing certainty to those in the healthcare space, from the healthcare provider to the vendors that enable care.

*Realize the Full Potential of Meaningful Use Stage 3:* In order to realize the full potential of the EHR Incentive Program, it is imperative that the remote monitoring of patient-generated health data be fully contemplated in Stage 3 of Meaningful Use definitions for electronic health records (EHRs)<sup>3</sup>. We also urge for the use of open standards for interoperability among all EHR systems.

*Make Investment in Advanced Medical Device Technologies a National Priority:* Certainty in sustained or increased federal investment in R&D is important and will help contribute to US leadership, but government policies must also provide incentives and facilitate strategic and robust investment from the private sector.

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TIA thanks you again for holding this hearing, and we look forward to working with you on these important issues. For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at [dcoffey@tiaonline.org](mailto:dcoffey@tiaonline.org).

Sincerely,

Grant Seiffert  
President

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://bit.ly/1hLWth7>.