



December 4, 2014

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senator
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senator
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Bennet,

athenahealth commends your collaboration in the introduction of the Medical Electronic Data Technology Enhancement for Consumers' Health Act (MEDTECH Act) of 2014. This legislation is much needed to provide increased clarity and certainty regarding the oversight of health information technology (health IT). This will help to ensure continued investment and innovation in health IT that will improve the safety and quality of patient care.

athenahealth provides electronic health record ("EHR"), practice management, care coordination, patient communication, data analytics, and related services to physician practices, working with a network of almost 60,000 healthcare professionals in nearly every state. All of our providers access our services on the same instance of continuously-updated, cloud-based software. Our cloud platform affords to us and our clients a significant advantage over traditional, static software-based health IT products as we work to realize our company vision of a national information backbone enabling healthcare to work as it should. Our client's successes, exemplified by a Meaningful Use attestation rate more than double the national average, underscore the very real potential of innovative health IT solutions to improve care delivery and patient outcomes while increasing efficiency and reducing systemic costs.

The MEDTECH Act follows the approach laid out in a multi-stakeholder effort led by the Bipartisan Policy Center, [*An Oversight Framework for Patient Safety in Health Information Technology*](#), in removing lower risk health IT from the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration. This will lay the groundwork for a new risk-based regulatory framework for health IT that will protect patients while preserving and protecting the ability of industry leaders like athenahealth to innovate and improve our services, providing myriad benefits—including continually improved quality and safety—to care providers and their patients.

We are encouraged by continued bipartisan leadership to create a regulatory environment that will enable the nation's health IT infrastructure to move into the 21st century and look forward to continuing to engage with your offices on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dan Haley, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Haley
Vice President
Government and Regulatory Affairs

A black ink signature of Stephanie Zaremba, featuring a complex, circular scribble at the top and a long, thin horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Zaremba
Senior Manager
Government and Regulatory Affairs