



Association for Molecular Pathology
Promoting Clinical Practice, Translational Research, and Education in Molecular Pathology

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March 5, 2012

The Honorable Tom Price
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Price and Congressman Kind,

On behalf of the Association for Molecular Pathology, thank you very much for introducing H.R. 4066, the *Health Information Technology Reform Act*, and supporting the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine. The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) is an international medical and professional association representing approximately 2000 physicians, doctoral scientists, and medical technologists who perform laboratory testing based on knowledge derived from molecular biology, genetics and genomics.

Pathologists, doctoral scientists, and other laboratory professionals have long ago embraced health information technology, and today, using electronic record keeping programs such as the Laboratory Information Systems and Anatomic Pathology Information Systems has become the standard of practice for almost all laboratories. Patients' results are reported, entered and stored electronically in medical records, which can help facilitate patient care, reduce the risk of medical errors, and improve the efficiency of a healthcare system.

AMP does support the use of meaningful use standards to encourage the adoption of health information technology and we recognize the intent of including incentives and penalties to promote compliance with these standards. However, due to their minimal and infrequent interactions with patients, those incentives and penalties are not practical and most often not applicable to pathologists. In essence, it will be impossible for pathologists to satisfy the meaningful use standards, and not only will they not have access to the incentives, but they will also face significant penalties.

The *Health Information Technology Reform Act* will address this misalignment between the regulations and pathology practice, and AMP wholeheartedly endorses this legislation. We offer our support as you work to pass this legislation and please let our Executive Director, Mary Williams (mwilliams@amp.org) know how we may best assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Iris Schrijver', written over a horizontal line.

Iris Schrijver, MD
President