



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

June 12, 2008

Dear Friends:

As Governor, I am pleased to welcome you to Wisconsin's Third Annual eHealth Implementation Summit. Your participation in this event today and in the state's eHealth Initiative is essential to transforming the health care system in Wisconsin and ensuring Wisconsin citizens receive high quality, safe and affordable health care.

Here in Wisconsin, I am proud we are working together to move forward eHealth initiatives that will improve medical care and save lives. We have made great progress since the eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board first convened in 2006. The success of this committee is made possible through continuing, multi-stakeholder collaboration on the eHealth Action Plan, and the commitment of Wisconsin's health care providers to quality.

In March, I signed Wisconsin Act 108 into law to move forward some of these important reforms. The new law provides physicians and patients with more comprehensive and reliable information to make important decisions about what health care treatment is best and safest. This legislative success was the result of more than 18 months of work by the Department of Health and Family Services to bring together privacy advocates, health information officers, providers, technology experts, and consumers to develop solutions to reduce barriers to electronic health information exchange, while maintaining appropriate privacy protections.

Over the next few years, we will continue promoting appropriate and necessary health information exchange within and across state lines, so patient health information is accessible wherever patients need health care. The State will be working with private sector partners to build a state-level governance model for health information exchange and a statewide health information technology infrastructure that will eventually connect to the Nationwide Health Information Network.

This eHealth Initiative is an integral part of my agenda to make Wisconsin a national health care leader. We will continue to build on Wisconsin's multitude of strengths: our reputation as a national leader in health care quality, our world-class health care facilities and academic institutions, our multi-specialty group practices, and our growing private sector health information technology market. These vibrant sectors of health care and information technology will help grow Wisconsin's economy and enhance the first-class quality of life here.

Best wishes for a stimulating and productive meeting!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Doyle".

Jim Doyle
Governor