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Trish Riley, Director
Governor's Office of Health Policy &
Finance, Augusta

Karl Turner, Self Employed Businessman
Cumberland

January 29, 2010

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe,

We are writing to express our deep gratitude for your leadership as Maine and our nation join together to address critically important issues that affect healthcare quality, cost and access.

We particularly appreciate your recognition that further investment in health information technology should be one of the nation's highest priorities. Like you, we believe that the adoption of electronic medical records and electronic health information exchanges will lead to improved coordination of care, enhanced quality and patient safety and a moderation in the growth of healthcare costs.

Thanks to your support and leadership, Maine has become a national leader in the development on these systems. Last summer---after more than five years of planning and development---Maine's electronic health information exchange or HIE (known as HealthInfoNet) became the third state in the nation to launch a system that offers clinicians a "real time" 24/7 exchange of patient data. Today, nearly half of Maine's population is included in HealthInfoNet's demonstration phase. Maine's HIE is an integral part of a comprehensive health information technology strategic plan that has been developed in recent months through a collaborative process between HealthInfoNet (a private, non profit organization) and state government. This public-private partnership has drawn considerable national attention.

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With this letter, we ask that Maine's Congressional Delegation work with us to identify and secure additional federal funding support for HealthInfoNet. Specifically, we ask that the Delegation take the following four steps:

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2. Sign a joint letter to President Obama requesting additional funding from ONC and other agencies to insure that Maine is able to fully demonstrate the benefits of a statewide exchange by continuing operations without interruption in 2010;
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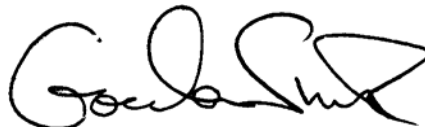
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Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



David Howes, M.D.
HealthInfoNet



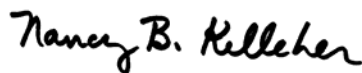
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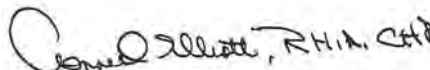
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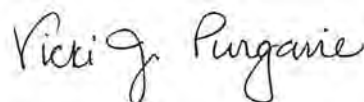
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CC: Cheryl Leeman

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Karl Turner, Self Employed Businessman
Cumberland

January 29, 2010

The Honorable Michael Michaud
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Michaud,

We are writing to express our deep gratitude for your leadership as Maine and our nation join together to address critically important issues that affect healthcare quality, cost and access.

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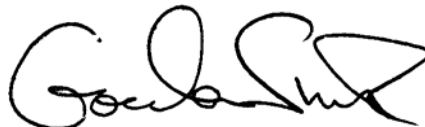
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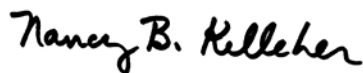
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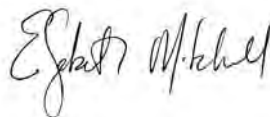
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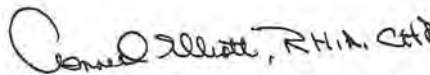
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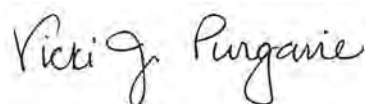
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January 29, 2010

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pingree,

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We particularly appreciate your recognition that further investment in health information technology should be one of the nation's highest priorities. Like you, we believe that the adoption of electronic medical records and electronic health information exchanges will lead to improved coordination of care, enhanced quality and patient safety and a moderation in the growth of healthcare costs.

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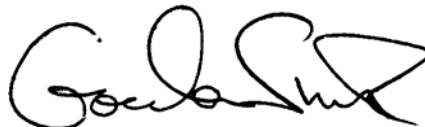
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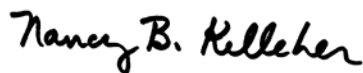
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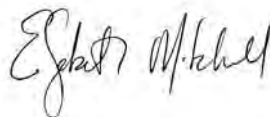
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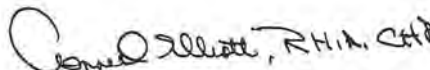
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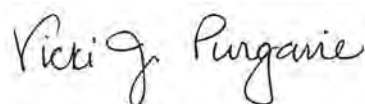
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January 29, 2010

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904

Dear Senator Collins,

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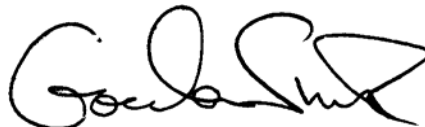
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David Howes, M.D.
HealthInfoNet



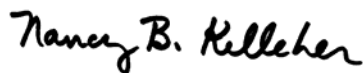
Gordon Smith, Esq.
Maine Medical Association



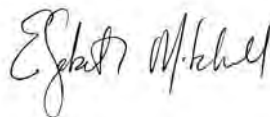
Steven Michaud
Maine Hospital Association



Angela Westhoff
Maine Osteopathic Association



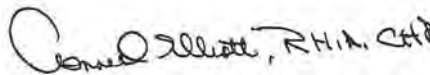
Nancy Kelleher
AARP Maine



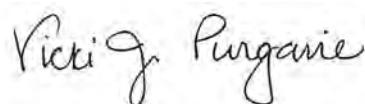
Elizabeth Mitchell
Maine Health Management Coalition



Lisa Letourneau, M.D.
Quality Counts



Connie Elliott
Maine Health Information
Management Association.



Vickie Purgavie
Home Care & Hospice
Alliance of Maine

CC: Jennifer Duddy