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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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February 22, 2010

Sir/Madam

United States Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator For Health Information Technology
Hubert Humphrey Building, Room 416 G
200 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20201

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to write in support of HEALTHeLINK's application submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for funding from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program. HEALTHeLINK, a not-for-profit organization formed by the Catholic Health System of Buffalo, the Erie County Medical Center Corporation, HealthNow New York, Kaleida Health, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and Excellus, is one of the leading clinical information exchanges in the country.

I believe that it is imperative to provide our nation's communities with the resources necessary to build and strengthen their health information technology infrastructure. If awarded funding, HEALTHeLINK will create a Western New York Beacon Community in order to advance and leverage medical technology resources to create and maintain a secure and reliable infrastructure for the timely and accurate electronic exchange of clinical information among health care providers, insurers, and other medical professionals in Western New York.

The Western New York Beacon Community consists of eight counties, more than 500 physician practices, three federally qualified health centers, four rural health networks, nine government agencies, 29 hospitals, the University at Buffalo and P2 Collaborative, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of people in Western New York which serves over 61,000 individuals.

HEALTHeLINK has committed \$9.6 million to this project and has a track record of

effectiveness. Once again, I am pleased to support this collaboration of public and private entities seeking to improve efficiency for Western New York health care patients. I hope that you will give their proposal full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

LMS:js



February 25, 2010

Honorable Louise M Slaughter
2469 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Representative Slaughter:

Thank you for writing in support of HEALTHeLINK's application for a Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program.

I want to assure you that HEALTHeLINK's application is receiving fair and thoughtful consideration and results of the screening process will be made public as soon as they are available.

Thank you so much for writing.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Blumenthal".

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP