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CSPP Applauds Introduction of Frist-Clinton Health Care IT Legislation

Washington, DC – The Computer Systems Policy Project (CSPP), comprising chief executives from the nation’s leading technology companies, today applauded the introduction of comprehensive legislation in the U.S. Senate by Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Senator Hillary Clinton (D-New York) to help revolutionize America’s health care system by better utilizing information technology.

“The U.S. health care system today includes the world’s greatest doctors and most powerful medical tools, but they lack the basic information infrastructure to maximize their talents and effectiveness,” said Bruce Mehlman, Executive Director of CSPP. “Our paper-driven health care system each year contributes to thousands of unnecessary medical errors, \$150 billion in administrative waste and another \$300 billion on unneeded and redundant medical tests. The Frist-Clinton legislation represents a significant step forward to alleviate these problems.”

Specifically, the CSPP applauded the measure for a number of important provisions, including:

- Recognizing the necessity of government actions and funding to transform healthcare with information technology.;
- Empowering the federal government to lead by example in driving the adoption of standards for implementation as well as privacy and security;
- Making permanent the HHS office leading reform (ONCHIT), which has demonstrated great vision and effectiveness under the leadership of Dr. David Brailer;
- Reviewing state laws for potential barriers to secure electronic exchange of records, and offering grants for regional or local information exchanges;
- Requiring adoption of uniform quality measures and electronic reporting of quality measures; and
- Establishing a safe harbor for equipment and services provided for the development of a health information network without violating the Medicare self-referral and anti-kickback provisions.

“We applaud Senators Frist and Clinton for their leadership on this important issue, and look forward to working with them and their colleagues in the weeks and months ahead to make these goals a reality,” added Mehlman. “We also thank the many other members of Congress who have introduced legislation and provided leadership on this critical issue. CSPP believes that a health-care system transformed through greater use of information technology will do more than save lives and save money. It will provide every American with greater confidence that the best doctors and nurses have all the tools they need to offer the best possible care.”

Earlier this year, a CSPP-sponsored nationwide poll found that nearly seven in 10 Americans favor integrating information technology into the nation’s health-care system.

The Public Opinion Strategies poll found that 68 percent of respondents said they supported making patient health records more accessible to health professionals and streamlining health care operations through information technologies.

About the Computer Systems Policy Project

The Computer Systems Policy Project is a CEO policy advocacy group focused on ensuring U.S. competitiveness through technology leadership. The CSPP CEOs visit Washington twice annually to meet with lawmakers about policy issues of importance to the high-tech industry and work throughout the year to promote education, analysis and recommendations. For more information, please visit www.cspp.org.

CSPP's CEOs manage companies that generate over \$300 billion in annual revenues and employ over 750,000 workers. Founded in 1989, its members are Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel; Mark V. Hurd, President and CEO of Hewlett-Packard; Joseph McGrath, Chairman and CEO of Unisys; Samuel J. Palmisano, Chairman and CEO of IBM; James M. Ringler, Director and Interim CEO of NCR; Kevin B. Rollins, President and CEO of Dell; Michael R. Splinter, President and CEO of Applied Materials; Joseph M. Tucci, President and CEO of EMC; and, Ed Zander, Chairman and CEO of Motorola.

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