



February 5, 2009

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate:

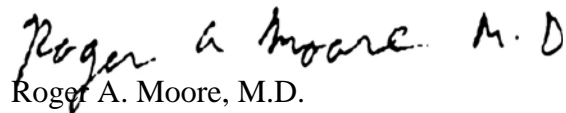
On behalf of the 43,000 members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, I am writing in strong support of the “Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act -- HITECH Act” and “Medicare and Medicaid Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act -- M-HITECH Act” included in the pending economic stimulus package. We urge a “yes” vote for it in the context of the fiscal stimulus bill.

These much-needed provisions would ensure the appropriate development of HIT standards by 2010, thus allowing for nationwide electronic exchange and use of information. We understand that the HITECH Acts would save the government some \$10 billion through improvements in quality of care and care coordination, while also reducing medical errors.

As the recognized medical specialty leader in patient safety, anesthesiology and ASA welcome this important effort to broaden technology available to all physicians and hospitals to help improve care for our patients. With the launch of our new Anesthesia Quality Institute to further improve outcomes research through a new data registry, ASA especially welcomes the emphasis in the Acts on assuring best practices and interoperability for clinical registries and data banks.

We agree wholeheartedly that health information helps save lives and lower costs and look for the early enactment of the HITECH Acts through the fiscal stimulus bill. We applaud President Obama and Congress for early action on this extremely important health care reform initiative.

Sincerely,



Roger A. Moore, M.D.  
President