

LATE



REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION

Tuesday, March 18, 2008
State Capitol, Conference Room

In consideration of
Senate Bill HB2137 HD2 SD1
Tax Credit; Organ Donation

I am Danette Maruyama, of TeamPraxis, LLC., I am testifying in of support Senate Bill HB2137, which would establish a tax credit for organ donations.

I would also like to request your committee's consideration in amending this measure to include a tax credit for physicians implementing electronic health record systems. As pointed out during a recent informational briefing before the Senate Health Committee, the proliferation of individual hard-copy records among physicians, hospitals, clinics, health insurers and other health care providers presents a huge problem in reconciling this information into a view to support real-time clinical decisions. As health costs continue to increase and health providers face real challenges in obtaining necessary reimbursements for their services, one partial solution that has not been fully explored is the use of information technology to help health care professionals transition into an electronic health record environment.

The use of an EHR allows the physician to perform data analysis on their entire patient population. This can be very useful for notifying patients for a specific drug recall or notifying all female patients when they reach 40 years old to get a mammogram. This kind of analysis is not possible using paper charts! With today's rising cost of healthcare, the ability of having the patients clinical information in an electronic form is very invaluable and a requirement in today's physicians office.

If more physicians use an EHR solution, this will have a positive effect on reducing health care costs. For example, our company has been chartered to implement EHR's in over 500 physician offices over a three year period. With a tax credit to help defray a portion of the costs of transitioning to an electronic health record environment, we believe 80% of physicians would seriously move to implementing an EHR system.

The following are comments from some of our local physicians in the community:

Dr. Alan Oki, MD

Rheumatology

TeamPraxisSM

A DataHouse Holdings COMPANY

"When you are contacted for critical information by other physicians, the notes are readily available at the office or at home. Bottom line: improved efficiency and better patient care."

"TouchWorks EHR greatly increases the efficiency of your practice. Your medical assistants no longer waste time pulling or filing charts. This will free up hours of time for your staff."

"I used to carry 40 pounds of charts between two offices; now I carry my laptop. Before switching to TouchWorks, I had considered long-term storage for my charts. Instead, we shredded 32 boxes of charts recently. That's a load off my back."

"I've used the EHR in the hospital, at home, on Maui and in Las Vegas. I've used it on a house call. I don't have to rely on my memory to make a clinical decision when I am away from the office."

"I had investigated several EHRs over the years and found their functionality did not justify the cost. They also were not fully backed by an established local vendor. TouchWorks provided a flexible and powerful EHR supported by TeamPraxis. They have been wonderfully responsive to our needs."

Dr. Carla Nip-Sakamoto, MD

Dermatology

"Patient documentation is more complete with EHR. I know my patients far better than I've ever known them."

"Electronic medical records have allowed us to be much more thorough in our documentation. We are more effective communicators with everyone who is involved in patient care. This enables us to be more comprehensive in what we do for our patients."

Dr. Scott Miscovich, MD

Family Medicine

"EHR has brought about a full paradigm shift to the way we practice. There are not many things in a practicing physician's career that can influence the way your day goes and the way you practice medicine like an EHR."