

# Healthcare Policy and IT Initiatives: What a Difference a Year Makes!



**Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz**  
13th Congressional District  
US House of Representatives from Pennsylvania



**K. Meredith Taylor, MPH**  
Director of Congressional Affairs for HIMSS

# Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz



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# **Question and Answer Session**

# **Health IT Policy Update**

**K. Meredith Taylor, MPH  
Director, Congressional Affairs**

# Agenda

- **HIMSS Advocacy Team**
- **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**
  - Legislative Overview
  - Activities Underway at HIMSS
- **Healthcare Reform**
  - *“Enabling Healthcare Reform Using Information Technology”*
  - President’s FY10 Budget
  - Opportunities for Health IT

# HIMSS Advocacy Team

- Board of Directors – **Set Policy**
- Advocacy & Public Policy Steering Committee
  - **Make recommendations to Board**
  - 12 voting members – 2 year terms
  - 4 non-voting organizational members
  - 2 Board Liaisons
- Government Relations Roundtable (Corporate members)
- Chapter Advocacy Liaison Roundtable (Individual members)
- Legislation/Regulation Review Task Force (LRRTF)
- Individual members and staff

# ARRA

- \$2 billion for the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)
- \$20.819 billion in incentives through Medicare and Medicaid
- Codification of the ONC
- Establishment of 2 Federal Advisory Committees
- Grants and Loans to Foster the Use of Health IT
- New privacy and security provisions
- HHS has established new office to track ARRA initiative lead by Dennis Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Recovery Act Coordination

# ARRA

- **[www.himss.org/EconomicStimulus](http://www.himss.org/EconomicStimulus)**
  - Legislative Analysis and Summary
  - Medicare Incentive Payment Worksheets
  - Healthcare Reform Updates
  - HIMSS FAQs on ARRA
- **HIMSS Economic Stimulus Education Program**
  - 5-Part Webinar Series
  - Complementary to HIMSS Members
  - Registration, Slides, and Recordings available at [www.himss.org/EconomicStimulus/Webinars.htm](http://www.himss.org/EconomicStimulus/Webinars.htm)
  - 11 education sessions at HIMSS09 in Chicago

# HIMSS Involvement with ARRA

- Capitol Hill meetings
- Executive Branch meetings
- Involvement of Board, CEO and EVPs
- Congressional Budget Office
- State level activities
- Institute for e-Health Policy sessions on Capitol Hill
- Press activities

# Healthcare Reform

- ***“Enabling Healthcare Reform Using Information Technology”***
  - HIMSS recommendations to the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress
  - More than 100 volunteers convened the HIMSS Healthcare Transformation through Health IT (HTHIT) Workgroup
  - Recommendations concerning:
    - Leadership
    - Funding
    - Certification
    - Standards Harmonization
    - Workforce
    - Telehealth
    - Privacy and Security
    - Consumer Empowerment

# Healthcare Reform

- **President's FY10 Budget**

- February 2009, President Obama released a blueprint of the fiscal year 2010 budget, totaling **\$3.55 trillion**
- Blueprint includes **\$76.8 billion** for the Department of Health and Human Services
- Establishment of a Reserve Fund of more than **\$630 billion over 10 years to finance healthcare reform**
- “The Administration will continue efforts to further the adoption and implementation of health IT- an essential tool to modernize the healthcare system.”
- **\$25 billion** over the next five years for the VA, to be applied to such activities as investments in IT that directly benefits veterans in the areas of both healthcare and benefits.

# Healthcare Reform

- **Forecasting: Opportunities for Health IT**
  - “We need to build on health IT efforts, focus on prevention, improve quality implementation (comparative effectiveness), implement payment and billing reform to save money.”
  - Tax credits for health IT?
  - Long-term care and health IT?

# Advocacy Tools and Resources

- Legislative Action Center on HIMSS website
- Fact Sheets and Position Statements
- Legislation Comparison Crosswalks
- [www.himss.org/economicstimulus](http://www.himss.org/economicstimulus)
- Advocacy Award – Established in 2002
- Trend TRACK- Legislative E-mail updates
- D.C. area office
- *HIMSS Pulse on Public Policy* – Established in 2004

# Questions?

## Contact Your HIMSS Government Relations Team

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# **Question and Answer Session**