



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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October 13, 2015

The Honorable William Cassidy
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

On behalf of over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) would like to commend you for introducing S. 2141, the Transparent Ratings on Usability and Security to Transform Information Technology (TRUST IT) Act of 2015.

The AAOS believes that health information technology (health IT) is a fundamental component to improving our nation's healthcare system and has been working to increase adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) among its members. However, the current EHR marketplace is overwhelming and providers are offered no guarantee that the EHR product they purchase will be interoperable, efficient, effective, and secure. EHR must be able to exchange patient information with other EHR systems without hidden fees and intentional blocks to data exchange. Additionally, many health IT systems are not user-friendly, which hinders, instead of aids, physicians' abilities to provide quality care to their patients.

S. 2141 looks to address these issues by establishing an EHR rating system which focuses on security, usability, and interoperability and will allow providers to compare EHR systems. Further, this legislation would update the certification process by requiring health IT vendors to report on their products every two years, so providers can be assured that the product they purchased will continue to be interoperable. Finally, the legislation establishes a revolving user compensation fund to help offset costs associated with purchasing new certified health IT systems for users whose products were decertified.

Again, the AAOS commends the efforts put forth in this legislation to provide a much needed transparent rating system and updated certification process for health IT products. Please feel free to contact Catherine Boudreaux, AAOS Senior Manager of Government Relations (boudreaux@aaos.org), if you have any questions or if the AAOS can serve as a resource to you.

Sincerely,

David D. Teuscher, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons