



A driving force for health equity

Transmitted via email

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support the Behavioral Health Information Technology (BHIT) Coordination Act

Dear Sens. Markwayne Mullin and Catherine Cortez Masto,

On behalf of OCHIN, I offer strong support for S. 2688. OCHIN is a [national nonprofit health information technology and research network](#) that offers technology solutions, informatics, evidence-based research, and policy insights. OCHIN serves nearly 2,000 community health care sites with 25,000 providers in 40 states, reaching more than 8 million patients. For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced health care solutions by leveraging the strength of our network's unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation for patients and providers in rural and other underserved communities.

OCHIN applauds your leadership for introducing the BHIT Coordination Act. This much needed legislation will provide \$20 million in grant funding over five years (FY 25-29) to help behavioral providers adopt and utilize health information technology systems to better coordinate the care of patients. In addition, the legislation wisely calls for ONC and SAMHSA to develop voluntary behavioral IT standards as well as directing CMS and SAMHSA to develop guidance for states to utilize Medicaid funding to further promote adoption and interoperability of health IT technology for behavioral health providers.

Thank you for your leadership. Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org if we can provide any additional information to support your efforts/if you have any questions/if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Stoll".

Jennifer Stoll
Executive Vice President
External Affairs