



A driving force for health equity

Transmitted via electronic mail

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 7379 The Patient Matching and Transparency in Certified Health IT (MATCH IT) Act of 2024

Dear Representatives Kelly and Foster,

On behalf of OCHIN, I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for H.R. 7379 *The Patient Matching and Transparency in Certified Health IT (MATCH IT) Act of 2024* which would establish standards and protocols to improve patient matching. OCHIN is a [national nonprofit health information technology and research network](#) that serves nearly 2,000 community health care sites with 25,000 providers in 40 states, reaching more than 8 million patients in rural and underserved communities. OCHIN has long supported improved interoperability and the use of a unique patient identifier to ensure accurate patient identification. This legislation will further efforts to create uniform methods and standards for patient matching which is essential to promote patient safety and appropriate care management and operations across sites of care and coverage categories. We applaud your leadership and appreciate your sponsorship of *H.R. 7379 MATCH IT Act of 2024* to improve the process of patient matching.

The OCHIN network provides unparalleled capabilities to securely exchange patient information, supporting local care teams and strengthening the national system of care. With over 137 million clinical records exchanged last year, OCHIN puts “one patient, one record” at the heart of everything we do to connect and transform care delivery. We ensure all health records flow seamlessly between patients and their many providers, giving clinicians greater insight into their patients’ health and helping to complete the circle of care. OCHIN drives interoperability on a national scale through our growing health information network and automated electronic case reporting for public health.

The MATCH IT Act would result in the update or creation and adoption of data standards which would include the creation of a minimum data set for patient matching as part of the United States Core Data for Interoperability which we support. Further, the bill would establish a Medicare quality reporting bonus incentive payment to drive patient matching. We urge consideration of the challenges faced by safety net providers who disproportionately serve patients who are housing insecure and pose significant patient matching challenges.

Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org if we can provide any additional information to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Stoll
Chief External Affairs Officer
External Affairs