

The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2013

Dear Senator Thune:

The National Transitions of Care Coalition strongly supports the Fostering Independence Through Technology (FITT) Act (S. 596). This legislation is an important step forward in improving the transitions of care for patients from one setting of care back to the home, and ultimately in reducing the number of unnecessary hospital readmissions.

The National Transitions of Care Coalition (NTOCC) is a non-profit organization of leading multidisciplinary health care organizations and stakeholders dedicated to providing solutions that improve the quality of health care through stronger collaboration between providers, patients, and family caregivers.

NTOCC believes that health information technology (HIT) is a critical tool for addressing the threats to safety and quality that can occur during care transitions. As you are aware, patients — particularly the elderly and individuals with chronic or serious illnesses— face significant challenges when moving from one care setting to another within our fragmented health care system. Poor communication during transitions from one care setting to another can lead to confusion about the patient's condition and appropriate care, duplicative tests, inconsistent patient monitoring, medication errors, delays in diagnosis and lack of follow through on referrals. These failures create serious patient safety, quality of care, and health outcome concerns.

NTOCC supports the shared savings pilot projects established in the FITT Act that are focused on providing the proper incentives for the adoption of remote patient monitoring (RPM) technologies to better monitor Medicare beneficiaries during a transition to the home. The adoption of this platform for real-time information sharing should improve communication during transitions between providers, patients, and family caregivers, a key priority for NTOCC.

We applaud your continued efforts to improve patient care and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. Please feel free to contact Lindsay Punzenberger, NTOCC's Policy Director, at 202-466-4721 or lpunzenberger@vennstrategies.com, with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cheri Lattimer
Executive Director