

MEDIA ADVISORY

NEWS CONFERENCE

COALITION FOR PATIENT PRIVACY NEWS CONFERENCE

RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2456

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007 at 10:30 AM

SPEAKERS:

- ~Rep. Ed Markey, (D-MA) Chair of House Privacy Caucus (confirmed)
- ~Dr. Deborah Peel, Founder & Chair, Patient Privacy Rights (confirmed)
- ~Caroline Fredrickson, Executive Director, ACLU (tentative)
- ~Michael Ostrolenk, Assoc. of American Physicians and Surgeons and the Liberty Coalition (tentative)
- ~Representative, Microsoft Corporation, Inc. (confirmed)

**Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) will stand with 46 state & national organizations, including HIT corporations such as Microsoft, Inc., and call on Congress to give Americans control over who can see and use our Personal Health Records.**

The bi-partisan Coalition for Patient Privacy announces and delivers its 2007 letter to Congress this Thursday advocating for federal legislation that adopts its [Privacy Principles](#) for all Health IT. The Coalition is led by Dr. Deborah Peel, M.D., Founder and Chair of the Patient Privacy Rights Foundation, and includes the ACLU, AIDS Action, the American Association for People with Disabilities, the American Conservative Union and the Family Research Council among many others.

The letter is being released at a crucial time as the Senate and House are preparing to consider legislation to establish an Electronic Health Information Network. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) actually sanctions broad disclosure of our most sensitive information to over 4 million individuals and entities, greatly increasing the risk of misuse and identity theft. An Electronic Health Information Network without privacy protections plus weak HIPAA laws governing patient privacy will undermine trust in the American health system. The Coalition's Privacy Principles preserve the traditional bond between patient and physician while recognizing that technological changes can provide greater opportunities to improve health care access and delivery.

The [Coalition for Patient Privacy](#) first formed in 2006 and represents millions of Americans. Dr. Deborah Peel leads the Coalition and is the founder of [Patient Privacy Rights](#), a national consumer health privacy watchdog organization based in Austin, TX.

***Background Material***

[The elimination of consent for health records](#)

[2006 activity by the Coalition for Patient Privacy](#)

[The millions of individuals and entities who legally have rights to your personal information](#)

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Patient Privacy Rights

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