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DISTRICT 29

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
United States House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0308

Re: Tucson Medical Center; application for federal funding of electronic medical records

Dear Ms. Giffords:

I support Tucson Medical Center's application for federal appropriation of tax dollars in support of the hospital's ambitious electronic medical record that is known as OneChart. As the country continues to struggle with how to pay for escalating healthcare costs, it's clear that change needs to begin now at a grassroots level to reduce waste, improve efficiency and safer environment for patients.

Tucson Medical Center has taken a leadership position in terms of investing in and implementing an electronic medical record that will put it at the very elite Stage 6 level of implementation. Using the Epic platform, TMC will be the first in Arizona to achieve this level of EMR – which will allow the professional staff begin to achieve efficiencies, safety and quality goals that have been so elusive to our industry. This system will be designed to allow for interoperability when other community health exchanges become available and this is really a fundamental step towards reforming health-care as we know it today.

Funding through the appropriations process will allow the hospital to begin to bend the curve in terms of the cost of healthcare in Southern Arizona. I encourage you to join me in supporting this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Heinz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Heinz, M.D.
State Representative, District 29