

# The New York Times

## Health Technology

Letter To The Editor  
March 6, 2008

I commend Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's foresight in implementing much-needed health technology in New York. Nationally, health technology has the potential to save more than 100,000 lives and more than \$80 billion each year.

I hope that this positive first step will give Congress a needed push to pass proposed legislation calling for a national health technology system.

Creating interoperable standards, which will allow systems to communicate with one another, and promoting widespread adoption of health technology is a must if we want to bring 21st-century standards to health care.

Verizon and other Business Roundtable member chief executives have already begun working with our health plans to drive quick implementation of electronic medical records, but clear interoperable standards are essential if we're to realize the promise of personalized patient care.

We cannot wait anymore. It is time for Congress to upgrade America by moving health technology off the legislative agenda and into the lives of Americans.

Ivan Seidenberg  
Chairman and Chief Executive, Verizon  
New York, March 4, 2008