

## Murphy Announces Over \$7.2 Million Health Information Technology Upgrade Grant for Connecticut

Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) announced that Connecticut will receive more than \$7.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for health information technology.

March 15, 2010

Contact: Kristen Bossi

(202) 225-4476

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) announced that Connecticut will receive more than \$7.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for health information technology. This award is part of a \$2 billion nationwide effort to achieve widespread meaningful use of health information technology. Earlier this year, Murphy visited northwest Connecticut hospitals, including Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, and Mid-State Medical Center to meet with health care providers and to see firsthand efforts to implement health information technology projects - efforts that will be supported by today's funding announcement.

"Connecticut is poised to turn on the switch to a new era in health information exchange, saving lives and money in the process. When you need medical care, the last thing you should have to worry about is illegible notes or a paperwork error affecting your care. This federal grant will help Connecticut health care providers better serve their patients," said Murphy.

Health information exchange is critical to enabling care coordination and improving the quality and efficiency of health care. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the use of this technology can allow a physician to enter notes about a patient's condition and care directly into a computerized record, prompt providers to prescribe generic medicines instead of more costly brand-name drugs, and reduce the duplication of diagnostic tests.

The ARRA made an historic commitment to health information technology with loans, grants, and Medicare and Medicaid incentives to boost the nation's health information technology infrastructure. The CBO estimates that this investment will save taxpayers billions in our health care system. And to protect patients, the measure strengthened federal privacy and security law to protect identifiable health information from misuse.

# # #