BRIEFING AGENDA

Community Health Centers and Health Information Technology

May 12, 2006

Noon-1:30, B-340 Rayburn H.O.B.

Health Information Technology adoption rates remain troublingly low among the primary care physicians who provide most of America's healthcare. Amongst all primary care providers, Community Health Centers serve the nation's most needy patients: approximately 15 million low-income people. Newly gathered data indicates that health centers recognize the need for HIT, but significant barriers prevent them from adopting Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

A panel of experts will discuss the current benefits and barriers facing safety net providers as they seek to use electronic health information to improve patient care and reduce medical errors. Health centers are eager to meet the 21st century challenge posed by the technological revolution, and the briefing's panelists will explore whether the policies and resources are in place to meet their commitment.

The Panelists are:

- Daniel Hawkins Jr., VP, National Association of Community Health Centers (Moderator)
- Neil Calman, M.D., President/CEO, The Institute for Urban Family Health, NY
- Kevin Kearns, CEO, Health Choice Network, Miami, FL
- Ellen Friedman, Managing Director, Community Clinics Initiative
- Sara Rosenbaum, JD, Chair, Department of Health Policy, GWU SPHHS