

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
June 5, 2007

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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON FORMATION OF HEALTH IT NOW!**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released the following statement in response to the formation of Health IT Now!, which will provide healthcare information technology to patients and health care providers.

“Information technology has already revolutionized many industries, and its use in health care has immense potential to improve the quality of care and achieve major savings in costs.

Despite this great promise, however, the industry has been slow to adopt it, partly because of financial and technical barriers. Sen. Enzi, Sen. Clinton, Sen. Hatch, and I will soon introduce legislation to assist health providers in overcoming these barriers. Public investment in health IT makes sense and has broad public support, and we’re hopeful our bipartisan legislation will have broad support in Congress as well. Rep. Johnson and Sen. Breaux deserve credit for their dedication to this issue, and I commend the coalition for forming Health IT Now! to ensure that patients and health care providers have a strong voice in the development of health IT.”