26 September 2004

The Wyoming Legislature's Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee on September 23, 2004 voted to support the efforts of the Health Record Network Foundation as it conducts its pilot program in Wyoming. The national campaign and the Wyoming pilot will encourage consumers to create personal electronic health records as a step toward greater involvement of the patient in his own health management and will lead to improving the quality and efficiency of health care in our state and nation.

In designing the Health Record Network, Duke University leaders envision a resource that will provide to clinical systems and consumers across the country anywhere/anytime access to patient health information. This access, in turn, is expected to improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs by providing health information where it is needed, when it is needed.

The Wyoming pilot will be the first comprehensive effort to communicate the benefits of personal electronic health records directly to consumers and engage them as a driving force to improve the quality and efficiency of the U.S. healthcare system.

The legislative committee believes that this program will complement the health care information technology study that is being conducted by the Wyoming Health Care Commission in response to a bill passed by the legislature in the 2004 session. This study seeks to find the proper role of state government in encouraging and facilitating the development of an interoperable health care information system which will improve health care outcomes and reduce cost of health care in our state.

Senator Charles K. Scott
Co-Chairman,

Representative Doug Osborn
Co-Chairman

Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee
Wyoming Legislature