



October 29, 2009

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
Rayburn House Office Building, Room: 2466  
Independence and S. Capitol St., SW  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Longworth House Office Building, Room: 1415  
Independence and New Jersey Avenues, SE  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez and Congressman Graves:

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI) and the Medical Transcription Industry Association (MTIA) opposes the Foxx amendment to the Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009 (H.R. 3854).

The amendment by Congresswoman Foxx would mean that the SBA lending program would be terminated right when electronic health record standards under Title VI of the bill have begun to be implemented by ONCHIT – the Foxx amendment would basically nullify one benefit that this bill provides for small businesses across the country. We ask that you oppose the Foxx amendment as H.R. 3854 is debated and voted on in today's session.

AHDI and MTIA represent the medical transcription professionals and medical transcription service organizations that consist of approximately 1,700 companies and an estimated 300,000 healthcare documentation professionals, with \$15 billion in annual revenue. Many of these companies operate with less than a million dollars annually in revenues, making it difficult for them to purchase and update new healthcare technologies to keep pace with a health care system evolving toward electronic health record (EHR) system adoption.

Our members are responsible for currently producing about 60% of the medico-legal record. The dictation-transcription process has long been, and continues to be, the physician's documentation method of choice because it produces complex, specific, and accurate narratives that fully tell patient health stories. However, many EHR systems do not accept interfaced data from the dictation-transcription process. It can be very costly to build these interfaces. The small business loans outlined in this legislation will assist our smaller, less capitalized businesses with the resources necessary to build these interfaces to help preserve the dictation-transcription process. In turn, physicians will be more likely to adopt and support the use of EHR systems because of their familiarity and comfort with the dictation-transcription process.

Sincerely,

Peter Preziosi, PhD, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity/  
Medical Transcription Industry Association