



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Affordable Health Care Looms Large During Upcoming Political Season  
NC CACHI Discusses Ways to Reduce Costs with U.S. Congressman David Price***

**Research Triangle Park, NC (June 4, 2008)** – Reducing health care costs through the use of information technology and preventive care will prove to be national-stage issues during the upcoming political season, and concerned consumers in North Carolina are voicing their opinions now.

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA), a nonprofit consortium that aims to improve health and care by accelerating the adoption of information technology and enabling policies, convened a session with U.S. Congressman David Price to discuss health care and technology issues with the group's Consumer Advisory Council on Health Information (NC CACHI) last week.

NC CACHI members questioned Representative Price and shared opinions on pending health care legislation and ways to reduce the costs of health care without losing sight of the overall goal of improving the quality of care. Members also expressed support for information technology initiatives, such as e-prescribing, that will directly impact affordability and care issues.

Another discussion topic was the need to focus on preventive care, which will reduce costs in the long run. Members asked how the government could help fund educational initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles.

“Our current system is not sustainable. Two of the toughest issues are cost containment and shifting the population towards health maintenance and lifestyle changes,” said Price. “In the coming months, I look forward to talking with this group about how consumers could be affected by proposed federal health policy changes. We’ve got to get back to quality care and affordability. We shouldn’t lose that focus.” Price also stated that NC CACHI offers helpful perspectives on health care and health IT topics because members evaluate topics from the standpoint of users of the system.

“We appreciate Representative Price’s time and attention in talking with NC CACHI about issues that will shape health care policy for all of us,” said Holt Anderson, Executive Director of NCHICA.

**About NCHICA**

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium that serves as an open, effective and neutral forum for health information technology (HIT) initiatives that improve health and care in North Carolina. Members include leading organizations in healthcare, research and information technology. Working closely with its members, NCHICA has the unique ability to convene and form partnerships to advance HIT adoption. NCHICA’s leadership in conducting demonstration

projects, hosting educational sessions and fostering collective efforts within North Carolina helps position the state at the vanguard of national HIT acceleration efforts. NCHICA is located in Research Triangle Park, NC. For more information, please call (919) 558-9258 or visit [www.nchica.org](http://www.nchica.org).

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NC CACHI members with Representative David Price (left to right): Karen Davis, Ken Olden, Phil Brown, Marc Kolman, Debra Cimbala, Sarah Brooks, Representative David Price and Jeanne Smythe

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