American Academy of Family Physicians Commitment Statement

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) shares the principle that to achieve an open, connected care for our communities, we all have the responsibility to take action. The AAFP has long worked for interoperability in support of continuity of care and care coordination. We have helped to establish standards like the ASTM Continuity of Care Record, the HL7 Continuity of Care Document, the ASTM Universal Voluntary Health Identifier, and the Direct Project standards. We have contributed to shaping national health IT policy to inhibit information blocking and improve transparency. We have supported adoption of health IT by family medicine and primary cares physicians and practices have the infrastructure to share information and promote consumer access. We commit to the continued support of the following principles to advance interoperability among health information systems enabling free movement of data, which are foundational to the success of delivery system reform.

1. **<u>Consumer access:</u>** To help consumers easily and securely access their electronic health information, direct it to any desired location, learn how their information can be shared and used, and be assured that this information will be effectively and safely used to benefit their health and that of their community.

2. **<u>No Blocking/Transparency</u>**: To help physicians and providers share individuals' health information for care with other providers and their patients whenever permitted by law, and not block electronic health information (defined as knowingly and unreasonably interfering with information sharing).

3. **<u>Standards</u>**: Implement federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information, and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.

To implement these commitments we will continue to help shape national health care and health IT policy to incorporate these principles. We will continue to educate family physicians and primary care providers on the value of these principles and work to equip them to embody these in their practice. We will continue to educate the health IT and health care community that information technology is just a component of the large system of health care delivery and that the focus must be on solutions not on technology. We will expand our work on health IT usability, workflow, and systems design to enable the next generation of health IT needed to propel primary care and our health care system forward.