Executive Order 2005- 25
Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2004 President Bush called for widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records (EHRs) within 10 years and established the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT); and

WHEREAS, ONCHIT issued a ***Framework for Strategic Action: The Decade of Health Information Technology: Delivering Consumer-centric and Information-rich Health Care,*** (the "***Framework***") outlining four requirements for achieving the President's goal of widespread adoption of health information technology (HIT), including the need to: 1) develop interoperability standards; 2) support and encourage the development and use of EHRs and electronic data exchange infrastructure; 3) establish policies and regulation consistent with these goals and information security requirements; and 4) create an Internet-based architecture for nationwide health information exchange; and

WHEREAS, the ***Framework's*** goals are consistent with those of the State of Arizona to achieve 100% electronic health data exchange between payers, health care providers, consumers of health care, researchers, and government agencies as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) estimates that savings of $140 billion per year, or close to 10% of total health spending in the United States, could be achieved through HIT by reducing duplicative care, lowering health care administrative costs, and avoiding errors in care; and

WHEREAS, the federal government intends to financially support local and statewide initiatives aligned with federal efforts to achieve the President's HIT goals; and

WHEREAS, Arizona recognizes that early adoption of a statewide e-health information infrastructure would improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care in Arizona by: 1) ensuring health information is available at the point of care for all patients; 2) reducing medical errors and avoiding duplicative medical procedures; 3) improving coordination of care between hospitals, physicians, and other health professionals; 4) furthering health care research; and 5) providing consumers with their own health information to encourage greater participation in their own health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, Arizona must control health care costs as a key to a long-term strategy of reducing state expenditures and enhancing the business environment for both large and small employers; and

WHEREAS, a statewide e-health information infrastructure must be organized and structured in a manner to protect the privacy and security of health information; and

WHEREAS, establishing an Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap will guide legislative and regulatory actions, encourage coordinated efforts in the private health care sector, further public and private partnerships for the development of a statewide health information infrastructure, and maximize federal financial participation to support the goal of early adoption of an e-health information infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Director of the Government Information Technology Agency ("GITA") shall convene a Call to Action Summit of health care industry executives, technology leaders, content experts, major employers, community leaders and interested government agencies within sixty (60) days of the execution of this Order to solicit input and participation in the creation of an e-health information infrastructure for Arizona.

2. There is hereby created a Steering Committee for Arizona Health-e Connection (the "Steering Committee"). The Steering Committee shall be chaired by the Director of GITA and shall comprehensively review issues surrounding the creation of an e-health information infrastructure in Arizona and develop guidance (to be known as the "Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap") for the users of such infrastructure.

3. Members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Steering Committee shall include representatives from:
   - Major employers
   - Health plans
   - Physician community
   - Hospitals and hospital systems
   - Healthcare foundations and organizations involved in e-health information
   - Healthcare Associations
   - Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
   - Arizona Department of Health Services
   - Arizona Department of Administration
   - Arizona Department of Insurance
   - Arizona Universities
   - Health information, privacy and security content experts

3. Task groups within the Steering Committee shall be formed to develop recommendations for:
   - Identifying existing e-health resources, including funding sources, to support the development of a statewide e-health information infrastructure;
   - Identifying technology options, and their advantages and disadvantages, for a statewide e-health information infrastructure;
   - Identifying options for serving consumer health information needs;
   - Ensuring health information privacy and security in electronic health information exchange;
   - Facilitating statewide adoption of electronic health record standards to enable health information exchange across the state and nationally; and

- Creating organizational and governance structures for a statewide e-health information infrastructure.

4. The Steering Committee shall explore funding options for the cost of developing the Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap and the subsequent development of an e-health information infrastructure for Arizona.

5. No later than one hundred eighty (180) days following the Call to Action Summit, the Steering Committee shall submit to the Governor the Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap, detailing recommended actions and key milestone dates to achieve within the next five years the goals stated in this Executive Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 30th day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirtieth.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
SECRETARY OF STATE