



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 09-0227, **Version:** 1

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Health Services Department recommending that the Board consider recommendations regarding letters of support for Federal Stimulus funding consideration for the ACCEL Health Information Exchange (HIE) addressed to Governor Schwarzenegger, Assemblywoman Alyson Huber, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Tom McClintock, Senator Dave Cox and Assemblyman Ted Gaines, as follows:

- 1) Authorize the Chairman to sign seven (7) letters of support requesting Federal Stimulus funding consideration for the ACCEL HIE; and
- 2) Authorize the Health Services Director to sign similar letters as a member of the ACCEL Steering Committee requesting Federal Stimulus funding consideration for the ACCEL HIE.

**Fiscal Impact/Change to Net County Cost:** If approved, this Federal Stimulus funding for healthcare technology could result in up to \$1,400,000 during years 2009 and 2010.

**Background:** Access El Dorado (ACCEL) is a countywide health collaborative of public and private agencies dedicated to a healthier community by uniting, maximizing, connecting and focusing health resources especially on vulnerable populations, children and the underinsured or uninsured.

Over the past four years ACCEL has made extraordinary progress building foundational capabilities, relationships and infrastructure necessary to launch a countywide secure, multi-agency health information exchange (HIE). Infrastructure includes privacy and security policies and practices, pilot program for data exchange, electronic master patient index, and current work to select and implement appropriate and secure web based technology that will link participating agencies in an HIE that shares essential clinical data among El Dorado County providers and electronic health records. Importantly, this will include the capacity for disease surveillance, public health communicable disease reporting and urgent community health alerts.

Because of the substantial progress towards implementing a fully operative, countywide ACCEL HIE, the project is truly "shovel ready."

**Reason for Recommendation:** The Federal Stimulus Funds approved by Congress have earmarked funds specifically targeting Health Information Exchange technology deployment. If successful, our community could receive funds for the ACCEL HIE project, supporting the retention and creation of jobs, the technology purchase and implementation of the HIE.

**Action to be taken following Board approval:**

1. Board Chairman to sign seven (7) letters.
2. Board Clerk's Office to retain seven (7) copies of signed letters.
3. Board Clerk's Office to return seven (7) signed letters to Department.
4. Department to mail originals and distribute copies as appropriate.

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