

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

EDITORS: For review copies or interview requests, contact:
Public Relations Department
Contact Richard Moore, Advocacy Chair
Email: advocacy@csohimss.org

Ohio HIMSS Advocacy Day 2008

Local Healthcare Information Technology Professionals to Solicit Support from Ohio Political Leaders

COLUMBUS, OH. – As local and national political hopefuls target Ohioans for support by driving home a variety of healthcare-related issues, the two Ohio Chapters of the Healthcare Information and Management System Society (HIMSS) have joined forces to bring the issue of healthcare information technology (Health IT) to the forefront of the political discussion. The Northern Ohio HIMSS Chapter (NOHIMSS) and Central & Southern Ohio HIMSS Chapter (CSOHIMSS) are sponsoring the inaugural *Ohio HIMSS Advocacy Day* on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008. Together, they have jointly organized this state-level event to be held at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus to directly engage state officials and address Health IT to the benefit all Ohioans.

NOHIMSS and CSOHIMSS will help garner support from state-level political leaders on subjects such as data standardization, technology interoperability, alignment with national initiatives under the Office of the National Coordinator on Health Information Technology (ONC), and industry-level cooperation to the benefit of clinical professionals and the patient community in Ohio.

“NOHIMSS and CSOHIMSS are instrumental in our national efforts to educate and inform elected officials on the importance of Health IT in the transformation of healthcare. Without their grassroots mobilization, Ohio politicians would not have access to one of the most important industries in healthcare today,” said Thomas Keefe, Senior Director of State Government Relations for HIMSS.

The over 600 combined active members of NOHIMSS and CSOHIMSS are comprised of a diverse number of Health IT professionals, including technology specialists, clinicians, healthcare workers, nurses, vendors, and even students. This broad spectrum of the chapters’ membership will provide state officials with a comprehensive view on the Health IT industry and how it specifically hits home to fellow Ohioans. NOHIMSS primarily serves the Greater Cleveland area while CSOHIMSS serves the remainder of Ohio. For more information on the CSOHIMSS and NOHIMSS chapters, please visit their respective websites at www.csohimss.org and www.nohimss.org.

ABOUT HIMSS

HIMSS is the healthcare industry’s membership organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare. Founded in 1961 with offices in Chicago, Washington D.C., Brussels, and other locations across the United States and Europe, HIMSS represents more than 20,000 individual members and over 300 corporate members that collectively represent organizations employing millions of people. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare public policy and industry practices through its advocacy, educational and professional development initiatives designed to promote information and management systems’ contributions to ensuring quality patient care. Please visit www.himss.org for more information.