



## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE STATE ALLIANCE FOR E-HEALTH

On behalf of the State Alliance for e-Health, welcome to the Strengthening Teams and Building Networks: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State Learning Forum. As you may know, the objectives of our forum are to identify strategies to advance state HIE implementation, improve stakeholder coordination, and understand the critical linkages between health information exchange, quality improvement and health care reform. During the next two days, we hope to share best practices for enabling electronic information exchange within and across states, and ultimately throughout the health care system.

Much of the reason that progress has lagged is the absence of a coordinated health care system. We know that HIE can change the way we think about health care by providing critical infrastructure to coordinate how data are used. States must prepare to capitalize on opportunities to advance HIE. During the conference, we hope to advance your thinking around state HIE issues, such as governance, financing, technical infrastructure, quality improvement and privacy. We also hope you can engage in a dialogue with fellow states and national experts about their efforts, consider the central role of governance in establishing HIE, and explore new issues.

We would like to thank you for attending this conference. We also would like to thank the national experts who are helping guide the meeting. The State Alliance for e-Health has a new report, *Preparing to Implement HITECH: A State Guide for Electronic Health Information Exchange*, which aims to help states lead the way in using health IT and HIE. We invite you to provide feedback to us on the State Alliance's Report and also share this work with your colleagues and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

  
Governor Phil Bredesen

  
Governor James H. Douglas