

Dr. Elliott's testimony emphasizes podiatrists' HIT needs

Denise Lea Elliott, DPM, from the New Orleans area [testified](#) on APMA's behalf before the Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology, House Small Business Committee on June 2. Dr. Elliott was one of six witnesses to provide testimony on the barriers to implementation of HIT, two of whom were physicians in small medical practices. This opportunity was made possible thanks to the quick maneuvering of APMA and Dr. Elliott.

Farzad Mostashari, M.D., Sc.M., national coordinator for Health Information Technology for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presented opening testimony. Dr. Mostashari is responsible for the infrastructure to support the deployment and meaningful use of electronic health records and other types of health information technology among small physician practices and hospitals. It was clear from his testimony that the program places more emphasis on primary care providers than on specialty providers. This was one of the concerns APMA's testimony identified as an issue for podiatrists in attempting to identify and purchase EMR systems that meet their needs.

Karen Trudel, acting director for the Office of E-Health Standards and Services for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, testified about the progress and participation of physicians in the Medicare and Medicaid health records incentive programs. Ms. Trudel coordinates HIT from the health care provider side, including certifying meaningful use of HIT and disseminating HIT incentive payments to providers.

Information about witnesses and copies of testimony can be found on the [subcommittee website](#).

APMA members were informed of this opportunity to present podiatry's concerns about the federal government's requirement that all physicians employ and report use of EMR through Thursday's [APMA News Brief](#), APMA's Twitter feed and on its Facebook page.

Ranking Member Cedric Richmond, D-La., invited APMA to testify, and requested that a podiatrist from New Orleans testify on the Association's behalf. Chairwoman Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., spent time with Dr. Elliott and APMA staff after the hearing. Ellmers, a nurse, wife of an M.D. and a former hospital administrator, enthusiastically indicated that she loves her podiatrist, Elizabeth Bass, DPM, in North Carolina, and that she holds the profession in high esteem.

APMA thanks Dr. Elliott for graciously rearranging her schedule to appear in Washington on short notice.