



**AMERICAN
COLLEGE of
CARDIOLOGY**

Heart House
2400 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1153
USA

202.375.6000
800.253.4636
Fax: 202.375.7000
www.ACC.org

President

Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC

President-Elect

Richard A. Chazal, MD, FACC

Immediate Past President

Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, MACC

Vice President

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC

Secretary

Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC

Treasurer

Robert A. Guyton, MD, FACC

Chair, Board of Governors

Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC

Trustees

Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC
Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, FACC
Paul N. Casale, MD, MPH, FACC
Richard A. Chazal, MD, FACC
George D. Dangas, MD, PhD, FACC
Joseph P. Drozda, Jr., MD, FACC
Blair D. Erb, Jr., MD, FACC
Huon H. Gray, MD, FACC
Robert A. Guyton, MD, FACC
Eileen M. Handberg, PhD, ARNP-BC, FACC
John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC
Robert C. Hendel, MD, FACC
Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC
Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC
Michael J. Mack, MD, FACC
Michael Mansour, MD, FACC*
Frederick A. Masoudi, MD, MSPH, FACC
Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, MACC
Debra L. Ness, MS
Jane Newburger, MD, MPH, FACC
Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, MACC
Matthew Phillips, MD, FACC
John S. Rumsfeld, MD, PhD, FACC
Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC
E. Murat Tuzcu, MD, FACC
Thad F. Waites, MD, FACC
Howard T. Walpole, Jr., MD, MBA, FACC
Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC
Carole A. Warnes, MD, FACC
Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC
William A. Zoghbi, MD, MACC

*ex officio

Chief Executive Officer

Shalom Jacobovitz

*The mission of the American College of
Cardiology and the American College
of Cardiology Foundation is to transform
cardiovascular care and improve heart health.*

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Renee Ellmers
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ellmers,

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), I am pleased to offer our support for H.R. 3309, the *Further Flexibility in HIT Reporting Act and Advancing Interoperability Act* (or the *Flex-IT 2 Act*). We thank you and your staff for your commitment to recognizing and relieving administrative burdens to enable clinicians to focus on patient care.

The ACC is a 49,000-member medical society that is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. The ACC leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College operates national registries to measure and improve care, provides professional medical education, promotes cardiovascular research and bestows credentials on cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications. The Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), which publishes peer-reviewed research on all aspects of cardiovascular disease, is the most widely read cardiovascular journal worldwide. JACC is ranked number one among cardiovascular journals worldwide for its scientific impact.

H.R. 3309 would delay rulemaking for Stage 3 of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Meaningful Use (MU) Program until at least 2017 – an issue for which the College has advocated on Capitol Hill and at the agencies. In addition, H.R. 3309 would shorten the reporting period to 90 days without regard to the payment year or the stage of criteria involved. This legislation would provide clinicians with flexibility and certainty at a time when only 19 percent of eligible professionals have even met Stage 2 of the MU Program.

In July, ACC member Michael J. Mirro, MD, FACC, testified before the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and called for the delay of Stage 3 of the MU Program. Chairman Lamar Alexander has called for a delay of Stage 3 of the MU Program as well. The College would encourage you to work with Chairman Alexander and all members of Congress to advance this legislation as you have done with similar measures, such as the *Flex-IT Act*, in the past.

We commend your steadfast leadership on this issue and stand ready to help you advance this crucial legislation and enact it into law.

Sincerely,

Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC, FAHA, FASNC
President