

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 374 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, GREENLEAF, BARTOLOTTA, EICHELBERGER,
FOLMER, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, RESCHENTHALER, BROWNE,
TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, WHITE, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, SCAVELLO,
COSTA, VOGEL AND BREWSTER, MAY 17, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 17, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 17, 2016, as "Pennsylvania Health Care
2 Information Technology Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, United States health care spending grew 5.3% in
4 2014, reaching \$3 trillion or \$9,523 per person, according to
5 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

6 WHEREAS, As a share of the nation's Gross Domestic Product,
7 health spending accounted for 17.5% in 2014; and

8 WHEREAS, Spending on health care has risen over 40% in the
9 last decade; and

10 WHEREAS, The health care industry could save over \$8 billion
11 annually by completely switching from paper-based to electronic
12 transactions; and

13 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 5% of its
14 revenue on information technology and management systems versus
15 10.5% of other data-intensive industries, such as banking; and

16 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Commonwealth Fund has
17 demonstrated that the use of automated clinical decision support

1 systems can result in a net reduction of \$538 per patient per
2 hospital stay; and

3 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine reports there are at least
4 1.5 million preventable adverse drug events per year, each
5 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7 reports that, between 2011 and 2015, 50,607 providers and
8 facilities in Pennsylvania received \$1.4 billion in Federal
9 incentive payments to implement electronic health records; and

10 WHEREAS, Ninety-seven percent of eligible hospitals and 56%
11 of ambulatory health care providers in Pennsylvania have
12 adopted, upgraded or demonstrated meaningful use of an
13 electronic health record system in 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, Health care providers in this Commonwealth report an
15 improved ability to recruit physicians coming out of medical
16 school when advanced information technology is deployed at their
17 sites; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2012, Senate Bill 8 was signed into law, enacting
19 the Pennsylvania eHealth Information Technology Act and
20 establishing the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority and
21 a health information exchange; and

22 WHEREAS, By 2015, four of this Commonwealth's health
23 information organizations signed agreements to join the
24 Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority's Pennsylvania
25 Patient and Provider Network, a critical step toward a Statewide
26 health information exchange; and

27 WHEREAS, Supporters and members of the Healthcare Information
28 and Management Systems Society encourage the continued funding
29 of operations to support the ongoing advancement of a Statewide
30 health information exchange; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 17, 2016, as
2 "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day"
3 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of raising
5 awareness of health care information technology and the
6 advancement of the health information exchange to help improve
7 the quality of care, save lives and reduce the cost of health
8 care for all Pennsylvanians; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate welcome members and supporters of
10 the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society to the
11 State Capitol to promote better health care in this Commonwealth
12 through broader adoption of health care information technology
13 and the advancement of a Statewide health information exchange.