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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 109 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, BROWNE, GREENLEAF, SABATINA, BREWSTER,  
RAFFERTY, FONTANA, FOLMER, DINNIMAN AND BLAKE, MAY 9, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 9, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 9, 2017, as "Pennsylvania Health Care  
2 Information Technology Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
4 Services, in 2015 United States health care spending grew 5.8%,  
5 reaching \$3.2 trillion or \$9,990 per person; and

6 WHEREAS, As a share of the nation's gross domestic product,  
7 health care spending accounted for 17.8% in 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, Health care spending has risen more than 40% in the  
9 last decade; and

10 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 5% of its  
11 revenue on information technology and management systems versus  
12 10.5% of other data-intensive industries, such as banking; and

13 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Commonwealth Fund has  
14 demonstrated that the use of automated clinical decision support  
15 systems can result in a net reduction of \$538 per patient per  
16 hospital stay; and

17 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine reports that there are at  
18 least 1.5 million preventable adverse drug events per year, each

1 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and  
2 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
3 reports that, between 2011 and 2015, 50,607 providers and  
4 facilities in Pennsylvania received \$1.4 billion in Federal  
5 incentive payments to implement electronic health care records;  
6 and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Supporters and members of the Healthcare Information  
16 and Management Systems Society advocate for the following:

- 17 (1) Improved access to health care for rural  
18 Pennsylvanians through the expanded use of telehealth.  
19 (2) Funding for work force development programs to help  
20 increase the health care and information technology work  
21 force in this Commonwealth.  
22 (3) The adoption of policies that promote  
23 interoperability standards which enable cooperation by all  
24 provider communities in this Commonwealth;

25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 9, 2017, as  
27 "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day"  
28 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of raising  
30 awareness of health care information technology and the

1 advancement of the health care information exchange to help  
2 improve the quality of health care, save lives and reduce the  
3 cost of health care for all Pennsylvanians; and be it further

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