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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 275 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, WONDERLING, FERLO, BOSCOLA, PUNT,  
LAVALLE, PIPPY, MUSTO, FONTANA, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY,  
FOLMER, WOZNIAK, BAKER, WASHINGTON, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,  
O'PAKE, KASUNIC, ORIE, KITCHEN, STACK, DINNIMAN, LOGAN,  
ARMSTRONG, BROWNE, EARLL, COSTA AND VANCE, APRIL 1, 2008

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 1, 2008

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 12, 2008, as "Pennsylvania Health Care  
2 Information Technology Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, Health care costs represent 16% of the gross  
4 domestic product nationally; and

5 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of health care transactions are  
6 paper-based; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Recent studies have demonstrated that widespread  
11 adoption and effective use of health care technology, such as  
12 electronic medical records systems and other information  
13 management systems, can save the United States health care  
14 system \$162 billion annually; and

15 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine reports that there are at  
16 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 United States spends more than \$1.9 trillion on  
3 health care annually, yet one-half of that spending is  
4 unnecessary, spent on clinical and administrative waste, theft  
5 and excess costs; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Hospital Association reports that this  
7 Commonwealth's hospitals and health systems are outpacing  
8 hospitals nationally in their adoption and use of clinical  
9 information technology and information management systems; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Despite its leadership in this area, only 17% of  
15 hospitals in this Commonwealth report that most of their medical  
16 practitioners routinely use information technology for clinical  
17 interventions such as ordering medications; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize May 12, 2008, as  
19 "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day";  
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of raising  
22 awareness of health care information technology and the vital  
23 role it will play in helping to save lives and reduce the cost  
24 of health care for all Pennsylvanians; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate welcome friends, supporters and  
26 members of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems  
27 Society on their visit to Harrisburg and the State Capitol to  
28 promote better health care in this Commonwealth through broader  
29 adoption of advanced health care information technology and  
30 management systems on this Pennsylvania Health Care Information

1 Technology Awareness Day.