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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 737 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, HENNESSEY, RYAN, KORTZ, ROTHMAN,  
LONGIETTI, JONES, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, FEE, BERNSTINE, SCHMITT,  
HOHENSTEIN, OWLETT, SONNEY, POLINCHOCK, SCHLOSSBERG, MILLARD,  
NEILSON, YOUNGBLOOD, BROOKS, BIZZARRO, BURNS, PICKETT, MURT,  
KIM, BROWN, BURGOS, MACKENZIE, HILL-EVANS, BENNINGHOFF,  
WHEELAND, ECKER, MENTZER, READSHAW, DeLUCA, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
ROEBUCK AND THOMAS, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 6, 2020, as "Pennsylvania Health Care  
2 Information Technology Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, United States health care spending increased 3.9%  
4 in 2017, reaching \$3.5 trillion, or \$10,739 per person; and

5 WHEREAS, As a share of Gross Domestic Product, health care  
6 spending was 18% in 2016, up from 17.7% in 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the last decade, health care spending has grown  
8 by more than 40%; and

9 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 3% to 6% of  
10 its revenue on information technology and management systems;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Similar investments by other data-intensive  
13 industries, such as banking and financial services, range from  
14 4.4% to 11.4%; and

15 WHEREAS, Health care information technology has led to

1 improved guideline adherence, better disease surveillance and  
2 greater use of patient-centered care; and

3 WHEREAS, Health care information technology has reduced  
4 medication errors and adverse drug events and lessened  
5 disparities in access to care; and

6 WHEREAS, Annual Promoting Interoperability Programs reporting  
7 for Medicare Eligible Professionals, Medicaid Eligible  
8 Professionals and Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access  
9 Hospitals, indicates 546,644 Unique Providers paid through  
10 October 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, For the same period, the Amount Paid, Program to  
12 Date, reached \$38,422,505,920; and

13 WHEREAS, The digital transformation is driving global  
14 information technology spending to more than \$3.7 trillion, its  
15 highest level; and

16 WHEREAS, Enterprise software followed by information  
17 technology services are spurring this trend; and

18 WHEREAS, Artificial intelligence, cognitive computing,  
19 security software, machine learning and blockchain technology  
20 are other drivers of spending growth; and

21 WHEREAS, The Internet of Things, mobility tools, data  
22 analytics/business intelligence, information exchange and  
23 communication systems are projected drivers of future spending  
24 growth; and

25 WHEREAS, The health care industry is experiencing its highest  
26 rates of change, requiring budget increases to implement and  
27 monitor advancements; and

28 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Coordinator for Health  
29 Information Technology has outlined benefits of information  
30 technology; and

1 WHEREAS, These benefits relate to medical record transparency  
2 and accuracy, coordinated care and overuse of tests and  
3 procedures; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, at least 1.5  
5 million preventable adverse drug events occur every year, each  
6 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and

7 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
8 reports \$1,722,624,114.51 in combined Medicare and Medicaid  
9 spending under Promoting Interoperability Programs from January  
10 2011 through October 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Coordinator for Health  
12 Information Technology reports that 92% of eligible hospitals  
13 and 83% of ambulatory health care providers in this Commonwealth  
14 have adopted certified electronic health records; and

15 WHEREAS, Health care providers in this Commonwealth have  
16 noted an improved ability to recruit physicians coming out of  
17 medical school when advanced information technology is deployed;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Members and supporters of the Healthcare Information  
20 and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) encourage greater access  
21 to comprehensive care for rural Pennsylvanians; and

22 WHEREAS, Recommendations include expanded use of telehealth  
23 through enactment of Federal telemedicine legislation, workforce  
24 development funding and adoption of interoperability standards;  
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 6,  
27 2020, as "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology  
28 Awareness Day"; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that  
30 quality, safety and cost-effectiveness gains are achievable when

1 information technology and information exchange are applied to  
2 health care; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives welcome HIMSS  
4 members and supporters to the State Capitol, acknowledging a  
5 common goal of securing better health care that integrates  
6 information technology and information exchange.