

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, health information technology is the use of computer applications to aid in the practice of medicine, including the use of electronic medical records-keeping, databases for clinical decision-making and electronic prescribing of medications;

WHEREAS, research has shown that effective use of electronic health records can reduce costs by avoiding duplicate medical tests, reducing the use of unnecessary services and increasing efficiency in billing;

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing and medical records have the ability to reduce medical errors and dangerous drug interactions;

WHEREAS, health information technology can support drug monitoring programs aimed at preventing prescription fraud and abuse;

WHEREAS, data collected through the widespread use of health information technology could be used to promote the most effective medical treatments at the lowest costs;

WHEREAS, consumers are calling for strict privacy provisions to ensure that their personal medical records are secure;

WHEREAS, the widespread adoption of health information technology was estimated to create \$80 billion in cost savings in a 2005 study by the RAND Corporation;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Veterans Health Administration has been successfully using health information technology for nearly a decade and has improved quality and outcomes for its patients;

WHEREAS, adoption of health information technology is currently a financial burden for many physicians' offices and hospitals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments applauds provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provide funding for states to support the adoption of health information technology; and

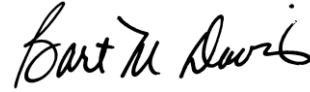
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments calls on the federal government to continue to lead the effort to implement a nationwide network of health information technology systems and devise standards that ensure private-sector and state-supported systems are interoperable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges the federal government to encourage providers to adopt secure, effective health information technology systems.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair