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## **PA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOOSTS AWARENESS OF HEALTHCARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**HARRISBURG**— Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and senior healthcare professionals from around the Commonwealth will gather in Harrisburg on May 5 to promote broader adoption of healthcare information technology to lower costs, reduce medical errors and improve the quality of care.

To recognize the importance of the effort, the General Assembly, through resolutions in the House and Senate, proclaimed May 5, 2009 “*Pennsylvania Healthcare Information Technology Awareness Day*.” Representative Josh Shapiro, sponsor of the House resolution, believes the time has come for Pennsylvania to act. “Seventy percent of all healthcare transactions are paper-based. In a time when my three-year-old son can send me a text message, it does not make sense that the vast majority of health care records are not digitized. Making records digital will save money and lives.”

Members of the Pennsylvania chapters of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and 29 other sponsoring organizations representing hospitals, health systems, information technology providers and other healthcare groups are sponsoring the second annual event, which includes a Technology Solutions Showcase on Monday, May 4 in the East Rotunda of the Capitol.

The solutions fair will demonstrate to legislators how Pennsylvania providers are positioned to support the HITECH provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) using information technology solutions today such as electronic medical records (EMRs), health information exchanges (HIEs) and other solutions to improve quality and reduce costs.

HIMSS, with 30,000 members nationwide and 2000 members in Pennsylvania, is the nation’s largest healthcare technology membership association. The “PA Healthcare IT Awareness Day” will bring more than 100 senior-level healthcare stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to share their professional experiences with the General Assembly on how information technology and management systems can be used to drive better, more cost-effective care for Pennsylvanians.

Recent studies have demonstrated that widespread adoption and effective use of healthcare information technology such as electronic medical records and other

information management systems can help save lives and reduce the cost of healthcare, potentially saving the U.S. \$162 billion a year. Senator Mike Folmer, Chairman of the Senate Communications and Technology Committee, said, “this resolution will help to raise awareness of the importance of health care information technology and the vital role that it will play in helping to save lives and reduce the cost of health care for all Pennsylvanians”.

For more information on this event please visit [www.dvhimss.org](http://www.dvhimss.org) or [www.wphimss.org](http://www.wphimss.org).

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