
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Keiser, and Parlette

Read first time 01/20/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND TO THE
6 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, Expanded health information technology has the potential
11 to revolutionize the delivery of health care in the United States by
12 enabling continuity of care, improving cost efficiency, lowering rates
13 of medical malpractice, decreasing duplicative care, providing better
14 care management for patients, and producing better health outcomes; and

15 WHEREAS, Major investments in the hardware and software
16 infrastructure required to facilitate the expansion of health
17 information technology are being made now by health care providers; and

18 WHEREAS, The health information systems currently being constructed
19 are often incapable of communicating with each other; and

1 WHEREAS, The costs to providers of maintaining incompatible systems
2 in the name of proprietary licensing will grow exponentially with every
3 delay in reaching a universal standard of interoperability; and

4 WHEREAS, The benefit from health information technology is only
5 derived from the ability of systems to communicate with each other on
6 a fully compatible platform; and

7 WHEREAS, A national public-private partnership has recently
8 commenced with leadership from the United States department of health
9 and human services to define standards of interoperability with the
10 goal of implementing electronic health records for all Americans by the
11 year 2014;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
13 institute a date certain, no later than January 1, 2013, at which time
14 all vendors, suppliers, and manufacturers of health information
15 technology must comply with a uniform national standard of
16 interoperability, such that all electronic medical and health records
17 can be readily shared and accessed across all health care providers and
18 institutions while at the same time preserving the proprietary nature
19 of health information technology producers that will encourage future
20 innovation and competition.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
23 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and
24 Human Services, the Governor of the State of Washington, the President
25 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
27 Washington.

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