



COMMITTEE: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

POLICY: GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY WEEK

TYPE OF POLICY: MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Brian Patrick Kennedy
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NCSL Applauds Global Health Equity Week, Oct. 23-27, 2023 (Memorial Resolution)

Global Health Equity Week 2023(GHEW) is an annual event that will next take place on Oct. 23-27, 2023. GHEW provides key public and private health and information technology stakeholders an opportunity to convene around the country in support of the advancement of health equity and to promote the value and potential of health information and technology to transform the public's overall health and well-being. Initiated in 2006 by HIMSS as National Health IT Week, Global Health Equity Week has emerged as the culminating successor given the importance of health equity to our national health improvement agenda. The week serves as a landmark annual occasion for bringing together diverse global policymakers to affect change. This year's theme is "Supporting Healthy Communities" and will focus on the following areas:

1. Digital Health Literacy, Inclusion, and Access
2. Maternal Health Equity

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has worked closely with HIMSS and other stakeholder organizations to promote understanding among state policymakers of the contributions of health IT in meeting the quadruple aim for improving health outcomes, the quality and safety of healthcare delivery, containing healthcare costs, and improve the work life of health professionals. Moreover, NCSL applauds HIMSS for elevating the value of health IT in addressing social determinants of health through the annual Global Health Equity Week events. NCSL and other stakeholders recognize the importance of health information technology and data to ensure states become more resilient to public health threats like COVID-19, the opioid crisis, natural disasters, and chronic diseases that greatly affect our most vulnerable communities. NCSL and HIMSS support state actions to leverage health IT and data systems to achieve these goals. For instance, broadband access and connected health often lead to better health outcomes through the adoption of telehealth and digital decision-making tools essential to empowering people to engage in their own care – care that is value-based, secure, reliable, and that takes into account the social determinants that drive improved outcomes and reduced health disparities.

NCSL encourages its members to observe Global Health Equity Week in appropriate ways in their respective state capitals as well as in the Nation's Capital. NCSL also encourages its members to advocate for their respective delegations to the United States Congress to join in recognizing the benefits of health information and technology as they act to improve healthcare for all citizens during Global Health Equity Week and beyond.

Expires August 2024