

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 672

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to pass the Behavioral Health Information Technology Act.

WHEREAS, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH) expanded efforts to establish a national electronic health records system that enables access to certain centralized health information and provides a reimbursement incentive under Medicare and Medicaid to physician and hospital users who become meaningful users of electronic health records; and

WHEREAS, the HITECH Act excluded psychologists and most non-physician providers from receiving the Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments; and

WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Information Technology Act of 2013 (H.R. 2957) has been introduced in Congress and would amend the HITECH Act to enable clinical psychologists, nationally accredited community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, outpatient mental health treatment facilities and substance use facilities to receive the Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments; and

WHEREAS, ending the exclusion of psychologists from such incentive payments would promote the integration of electronic health records into their practices and thus also promote integration of mental health into more primary care settings, reduce some adverse drug interactions, reduce duplicative tests and assist hospital emergency departments in triaging patients; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this body does strongly urge the Congress of the United States to pass the Behavioral Health Information Technology Act of 2013 (H.R. 2957).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared transmittal to members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.