

**NCSL STANDING COMMITTEE on HEALTH
POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
Louisville, Kentucky
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1 **COMMITTEE:** HEALTH

2 **POLICY:** ENCOURAGING COMPREHENSIVE

3 **APPROACHES TO PREVENTING AND**

4 **TREATING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES**

5 **TYPE:** EXISTING DIRECTIVE (amendments

6 recommended by committee staff and Rep. Tana

7 Senn)

8 Behavioral health describes both mental health and substance use disorders (SUD).

9 NCSL supports efforts that examine the issues of behavioral health through the

10 comprehensive and holistic approach of the four pillars-prevention, intervention,

11 treatment and recovery.

12

13 NCSL supports federal legislation, rulemaking, funding and programing that would:

- 14 • Provide block grants to states with flexibility to address the most pressing
- 15 behavioral health issues in their states;
- 16 • ~~Encourage federal proposals that s~~Supports states efforts to reduce stigma, treat
- 17 behavioral health conditions in a holistic way and working to further integrate
- 18 behavioral health and with primary care and public health services; ~~and promotes~~
- 19 ~~providers to work easily together in this model,~~
- 20 ~~Remove the unnecessary barriers created by 42 CFR Part 2 by allowing providers~~
- 21 ~~to communicate with one another. NCSL recognizes that it was originally attended~~
- 22 ~~in stopping discrimination, but it has become a barrier to accessing care and has~~
- 23 ~~further increased stigma, and~~
- 24 • Enhance integrated care while protecting confidentiality for patients with substance
- 25 use disorder;
- 26 ~~Reduce stigma and treat behavioral health conditions in a holistic and integrated~~
- 27 ~~way.~~
- 28 • Support state efforts to develop, improve and expand core behavioral health
- 29 mobile crisis response systems which includes crisis hotlines (including 988),
- 30 crisis response teams and mobile units and crisis stabilization programs; and

- 31 • Reduce barriers and expand access to behavioral health services by providing
- 32 telehealth and tele-prescribing flexibilities and resources including in the areas of
- 33 coverage, reimbursement and licensure portability.
- 34 • Build a diverse workforce to meet the growing demand for behavioral health
- 35 services.

1 **COMMITTEE:** HEALTH
2 **POLICY:** GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY WEEK
3 **TYPE:** EXISTING RESOLUTION

4 **NCSL Applauds Global Health Equity Week, [Nov. 11-15, 2024](#) ~~Oct. 23-27, 2023~~**
5 **(Memorial Resolution)**

6 Global Health Equity Week 2024~~43~~ (GHEW) is an annual event that will next take place
7 on [Nov. 11-15, 2024](#).~~Oct. 23-27, 2023~~. GHEW provides key public and private health
8 and information technology stakeholders an opportunity to convene around the country
9 in support of the ~~use advancement of health equity and to promote the value and~~
10 ~~potential~~ of health information and technology to transform the public's overall health
11 and well-being ~~and eliminate health disparities~~. Initiated in 2006 by HIMSS as National
12 Health IT Week, Global Health Equity Week has emerged as [a premier event](#)
13 ~~highlighting the culminating successor given~~ the importance of health equity to our
14 national health improvement agenda. The week serves as a landmark annual occasion
15 for bringing together diverse global policymakers to affect change. [Focus areas this](#)
16 ~~year are: This year's theme is "Supporting Healthy Communities" and will focus on the~~
17 ~~following areas:~~

- 18
19 [1. Digital Health Literacy, Inclusion, and Access](#)
20 ~~4-2.~~ [Social Determinants of Health](#)
21 ~~2-3.~~ [Maternal Health Equity](#)
22

23 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has worked closely with HIMSS
24 and other stakeholder organizations to promote understanding among state
25 policymakers of the contributions of health IT in meeting the ~~quadruple goals of aim for~~
26 improving health outcomes ~~and~~ the quality and safety of healthcare delivery, containing
27 healthcare costs, and improv~~ing~~ the work~~-~~life of health professionals. Moreover, NCSL
28 applauds HIMSS for elevating the value of health IT in addressing social determinants
29 of health through ~~the annual~~ Global Health Equity Week events. NCSL and other

30 stakeholders recognize the importance of health information technology and data to
31 ensure states become more resilient to public health threats like COVID-19, the opioid
32 crisis, natural disasters, and chronic diseases that greatly affect our most vulnerable
33 communities. NCSL and HIMSS support state actions to leverage health IT and data
34 systems to achieve these goals. For instance, broadband access and connected health
35 often lead to better health outcomes through the adoption of telehealth and digital
36 decision-making tools essential to empowering people to engage in their own care –
37 care that is value-based, secure, reliable, and that takes into account the social
38 determinants that drive improved outcomes and reduced health disparities.

39

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