

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Oregon Receives National Recognition for Health Care Information Technology Efforts**

*(Salem)* - Governor Ted Kulongoski announced today that Oregon was presented with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) State of the Year Award in recognition of its leadership in health information technology (IT). The award was announced as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual HIMSS Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.

“This award recognizes the important work Oregon has done to ensure all of our citizens’ health records are available to them and their healthcare provider anytime, anywhere they are needed, and that those health records are confidential and secure at all times,” said Governor Kulongoski. “For Oregonians, the impact will be higher quality care at a lower cost.”

Specific examples of Oregon’s leadership included survey results from the Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR) office that demonstrated Oregon continues to lead the way in electronic health records (EHRs) adoption and use. Nearly half of Oregon clinicians have EHRs in ambulatory practices — more than twice the national average —and one-third utilize fully functional EHR systems, which is five times the national average.

“I am pleased to present the HIMSS State of the Year Award to the State of Oregon, in recognition of the Beaver State’s inspiring achievements in advancing health IT,” said John Daniels, HIMSS Board Member. “In less than one year, Oregon has leveraged public-industry-academic partnerships to effectively promote the use of health IT and Health Information Exchange.”

The Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services is promoting new IT models that break down silos to provide health care services and programs more efficiently. As Oregon works on lowering the cost and improving the quality of health care, using health IT effectively and efficiently will become increasingly important.

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is a comprehensive healthcare-stakeholder membership organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare.