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National Health IT Week will take place September 23-27, 2019. Key public and private healthcare constituents – representing the full spectrum of healthcare interests – will convene in Washington, DC and around the country to address implications for ongoing healthcare reform initiatives and promote understanding. Initiated in 2006 by The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), National Health IT Week has emerged as a landmark occasion for bringing together diverse national healthcare stakeholders, who partner in developing neutral, common ground for the advancement of health IT adoption with "One Voice, One Vision." This September, nearly 400 public and private sector organizations throughout the nation will participate in the Tenth Annual National Health IT Week. 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 to improving the quality and safety of healthcare delivery and containing healthcare costs. National Health IT Week presents an opportunity for NCSL and other stakeholders to recognize the value of information technology and management systems to transform the United States healthcare system, improving the quality and cost efficiency for all Americans. NCSL encourages its members to participate in "National Health IT Week 2019" in appropriate ways in their respective state capitals as well as in the Nation's Capital. NCSL also encourages its members to urge their respective delegations to the United States Congress to join in recognizing the benefits of health information technology as they act to improve health care for all citizens during National Health Information Technology Week.
WHEREAS, 48 states experienced natural catastrophes including storms, blizzards, hurricanes, tornados, flooding, tidal waves, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, landslides, mudslides and other acts of God in 2011 for which a state’s Governor or the President of the United States issues a Declaration of Disaster or Emergency.

WHEREAS states and its citizens experience damage and destruction to infrastructure, including buildings, roads, communications networks, utility lines and other property, as a result of such Disasters or Emergencies.

WHEREAS, such Disasters or Emergencies result in interruption of crucial civic and business services to a state’s citizens and the demand for resources to repair and replace the damaged property and infrastructure can exceed local capacity.

WHEREAS, such Disasters and Emergencies may involve the need for companies to bring in resources on a temporary basis from out-of-state including materials, equipment, temporary shelters, and personnel to assist in the repair and restoration of the damaged infrastructure and property.

WHEREAS, existing state regulation and policies can cause delays in a business’s ability to quickly bring resources into the state to aid in the recovery efforts. WHEREAS out of state companies and personnel that have entered the state on a temporary basis solely to provide crucial resources and assistance to the state or its instate registered businesses should not be hampered in their efforts by registrations and taxes that are intended for companies and individuals in the state in the normal course of business, nor should they be deterred from entering the state on account of such taxes and registrations.
WHEREAS, state action that will facilitate the ability of companies, nonprofits, and their personnel to provide rapid response to state Declared Disasters or Emergencies throughout the United States will aid the state and its citizens in restoring and repairing crucial infrastructure.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the National Conference of State Legislatures supports efforts by states to pass legislation with appropriate safeguards that facilitates rapid and unburdened response in the interest of restoring a state’s property and infrastructure damage in the event of a Declared Disaster or Emergency.