RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 APR -9 PM 2:50

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification:*In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
HIMSS

Travel Dates:
03/09/2026 to 03/13/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$900.00	$693.00	$286.00	$1,690.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

1/6/26
Date

Matthew Thomas
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

4/9/26
Date

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☑ Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Lodging	$693.00	The hotel rate ended up being under the federal per diem rate of $179 and was $99 per night.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ☑ No

Explanation: There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ☑ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.



December 22, 2025

Dear Mr. Thomas,

On behalf of the HIMSS Government Relations Team, we are honored to invite you extend this invitation for you to attend the 2026 HIMSS Global Health Conference and Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada, taking place March 9-12, 2026.

As the largest U.S.-based healthcare conference and a premier global convening of leaders across the health ecosystem, HIMSS26 will gather more than 25,000 professionals, including clinicians, policymakers, health system executives, and technology innovators. The Opening Keynote is a signature event, expected to draw 7,000–8,000 attendees, and offers an influential platform to share your vision for the future of healthcare.

HIMSS26 will include hundreds of highly vetted sessions from industry leaders, renowned keynote speakers, specialty programs to meet distinct needs, and hands-on preconference symposia and forums. Attendees include hospital executives, physicians, practice managers, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers, federal, state, and local government representatives, public health professionals, and technology vendors and market suppliers. To learn more about HIMSS26 please visit https://www.himssconference.com/

During the conference, you may be especially interested in participating in a range of policy discussions and exhibits, including the HIMSS Interop+Smart Experience Pavilion, AI Pavilion, Patient Engagement 365 Pavilion, Cybersecurity Command Center, Government Connections Plaza, and other educational opportunities.

For over twenty years, HIMSS has offered paid educational opportunities for select policymakers and staff to attend the HIMSS Global Health Conference to learn about the policy issues and challenges of the system-wide adoption of health information and technology. Consistent with Senate and House ethics rules, HIMSS is extending an invitation to attend HIMSS25 for up to three days (72 hours, excluding travel time). HIMSS does not employ or engage a registered lobbyist or lobbying firm, nor do we serve as a foreign agent. Upon acceptance of this invitation, we will provide the necessary documents to submit with your request for approval of privately sponsored travel to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics or the

House Committee on Ethics, as applicable. Requests must be submitted to ethics by COB February 9 (at least 30 days prior to travel). HIMSS will also provide instructions to book your travel in compliance with applicable ethics travel rules.

If you are able to accept our invitation, we respectfully request a reply by January 15, 2026, to support planning for travel logistics. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lovina John at ljohn@himss.org or 845-775-7195. Thank you for considering our invitation.

Thomas M. Leary

Thomas M Leary, MA, CAE, FHIMSS

Senior Vice President and Head of Government Relations

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Matthew Thomas

Employing Office/Committee:
Senate HELP Committee

Private Sponsor(s):
HIMSS

Destination(s):
Las Vegas, NV

Travel Dates:
3/9/26-3/11/26

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.
Will use this trip to meet with stakeholders and get a better underestanding of current technology used to improve health data interoperability.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? **Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

3/6/26
Date

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Senator Bill Cassidy hereby authorize Matthew Thomas
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

3/06/2026
Date

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

HIMSS: HIMSS26 Global Health Conference & Exhibition

Matthew Thomas

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
HEALTH, EDUC, LAB, AND PENSIONS - REP

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Las Vegas, Nevada

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

None

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
HIMSS

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address 2 (Optional)
None

Phone Number
845.775.7195

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

○ Yes ● No

Address
4300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 510

City, State Zip
Arlington, Virginia 22203 United States

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

HIMSS hosts an annual Global Health Conference and Exhibition and invites congressional staff, along with federal, state, and local policymakers and officials, to participate in this unique educational experience. HIMSS began hosting congressional staff at its annual conference in 2007 and has done so consistently since at least 2014. The only exception was HIMSS20, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Educational Activities

HIMSS conducts year-round educational activities to advance the effective use of information and technology to improve health and healthcare outcomes. These activities include in-person and virtual conferences, educational sessions, webinars, workshops, and roundtables focused on health IT policy, interoperability, cybersecurity, data governance, artificial intelligence, patient engagement, and workforce development. HIMSS also develops research, policy briefs, thought leadership, and convenings that bring together healthcare leaders, policymakers, technologists, and clinicians to share best practices and insights that support informed decision-making across the global health ecosystem.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

HIMSS26 Global Health Conference & Exhibition is the leading healthcare conference, bringing together thought leaders from across the healthcare community, including healthcare providers, IT experts, vendors, and local, state, and federal government representatives. In addition to the hundreds of education sessions throughout HIMSS26, the conference provides the opportunity to interact with, and learn about, real-world applications of healthcare technologies.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

HIMSS is a global advisor and thought leader supporting the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology. As a mission driven non-profit, HIMSS brings expertise in health innovation, policy, workforce development, research and analytics to bring forward the voice of our members. This trip allows attendees to witness and learn firsthand about the rapidly evolving healthcare information and technology ecosystem, and understand how policy impacts the use of technologies that improve care, expand access, and lower healthcare costs.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
03/09/2026 @ 07:00 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
03/13/2026 @ 05:00 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $900.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$800.00

Note
HIMSS Meeting & Travel Guidelines require that you not to exceed $800 USD for North American flights. Staffers are working with travel agency to book travel and will be updated when confirmed

Ground Transportation	N/A	$100.00

Note
Estimated cost for ride share/taxi to/from airports

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $477.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
03/09/2026	03/12/2026	Caesars Palace	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	3	$159.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $286.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
03/09/2026	$0.00	$23.00	$36.00	$5.00	**$64.00**	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No
03/10/2026	$22.00	$23.00	$36.00	$5.00	**$86.00**	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No
03/11/2026	$22.00	$23.00	$36.00	$5.00	**$86.00**	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No
03/12/2026	$22.00	$23.00	$0.00	$5.00	**$50.00**	Las Vegas	Nevada	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,690.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Conference Fees	$1,195.00	Conference registration government rate, waived
Conference Fees	$495.00	Pre conference forum fee waived

Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: HIMSS26 Global Health Conference & Exhibition

Travel Date(s): March 9th to March 12th, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Las Vegas, Nevada

Sponsor: HIMSS

Thomas M. Leary
(printed name of sponsor representative)

SVP & Head of Govt Relations
(title)

Thomas M. Leary Digitally signed by Thomas M. Leary Date: 2026.01.28 11:01:56 -05'00'
(signature of sponsor representative)

01/28/2026
(date)

Senate Invites

Name	
Brittany Brignac	Sen. Rounds
Jacquelyn Gulshen	Sen. Mullin
Matthew Thomas	Senate HELP
Nimit Jindal	Senate HELP
Harshman Sihra	Senate HELP
Kathryn Handler	Senate HELP
Kei Helm	Sen. Markey
Amelie D'Hers	Sen. Markey
Emily Park	Senate HSGAC
Ilona Bodnar	Senate HSGAC
Erin Doty	Sen. Bennet
Sanju Sivaan	Sen. Cortez Maestro
Colleen Nguyen	Sen. Warner

House Invites

Name	
Reggie Darby	House Veteran's Affairs Committee
Caleb Parada	House Veteran's Affairs Committee
Joshua Hardy	House Veteran's Affairs Committee
John Harry	House Veteran's Affairs Committee
Kassie Stagner	House Veteran's Affairs Committee
Michelle Galdamez	Rep. Kelly
Alex DeRiso	Rep. Balderson
Jackie Weinrich	Rep. Matsui
Anisa Alazraie	Rep. Lieu
Ashley Strobel	Rep. Obernolte
Addison Porter	Rep. Miller
Will Burns	Rep. Obernolte
Tania Calle	Rep. Underwood
Caroline Paris-Behr	Rep. Underwood
David Steury	Rep. DeGette
Mahogany	Rep. Horsford (NV)
Richard	Rep. Amodei (NV)
Anna Moeller	Rep. Titus (NV)
Liz Beltran	Rep. Carter
Isrrael Garcia	Rep. Aguilar
Michelle Paucar	Rep. Schakowsky
Sequoia Ragland	Rep. Veasy
Jacquelyn Bolen	House E&C
Jay Gulshen	House E&C
Sarah Levin	House W&M
Laney O'Shea	Rep. Conaway
Ari Kirsh	House W&M
JP Moreland	Rep. Kelly

Samantha Warren	Rep. Foster
Adam Durand	Rep. Thompson
Tyler Adams	Rep. Thompson
Steven Szucs	Rep. Garbarino HCHS
Alexandra Seymour	Rep. Garbarino HCHS
Caroline Tucker	Rep. Buchanan
Ross Johnston	Rep. Kustoff
Elizabeth Arevalo, Sofia	Rep. Leger Fernandes

Congressional Staff Agenda: Matthew Thomas

Location: The Venetian Convention & Expo Center, Caesars Forum, and Wynn Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

March 9-12, 2026

Access Full Conference Information here:

All times are Pacific Time (PT).

****Note: Congressional Staff will be responsible for finding their own meals****

****Note: All events listed on this agenda are open to all conference attendees****

Monday, March 9th			
Time	**Title**	**Description**	**Speakers**
6:15am 7:28am 9:25am 11:48am	Matthew Thomas departs IAD UA279 Matthew Thomas arrives ORD UA279 Matthew Thomas leaves ORD UA1933 Matthew Thomas arrives LAS UA1933		
8am-5pm	Healthcare Cybersecurity Forum	1:05 PM to 1:20 PM: Hidden Dangers of AI: What You Don't See CAN Hurt You Artificial Intelligence is transforming healthcare and security operations, but its potential risks can remain dangerously overlooked. This session sheds light on the hidden dangers organizations face when implementing AI tools – whether leveraging generative AI, agentic AI, or building proprietary large language models (LLMs).	Steven Hajny Healthcare Technology Evangelist Zscaler
		1:25 PM to 2:10 PM: AI vs. AI: How Healthcare is Fighting Fire with Fire in Cybersecurity AI-driven cyberattacks are targeting healthcare's connected devices, patient data, and clinical workflows with unprecedented sophistication that traditional security can't stop. Healthcare	Ryan Kalember Chief Strategy Officer Proofpoint Robert Maclay Chief Information Security Officer Stanford Children's Health

cybersecurity experts reveal how AI has become both our greatest threat and most powerful defense. You'll hear firsthand accounts of sophisticated attacks, then discover how leading health systems are embedding AI in security operations for real-time threat detection and automated response without disrupting clinical workflows.	Dennis Chornenky Executive Director Valid AI Kristen Ray Enterprise Security Architect Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS)
2:15 PM to 3:00 PM: Healthcare's Crypto Tipping Point: Automate for Quantum Risk Organizations face three urgent pressures: post-quantum encryption, short-lived certificates (e.g., 47 days), and complex hybrid/multi-cloud architectures. Manual management can't keep pace, risking outages, compliance gaps, and patient care. This panel discussion explores how to operationalize cryptography with automation to maintain uptime, protect sensitive data, and meet continuous compliance. You'll leave with practical steps to begin a quantum-safe transition and build crypto agility across your environment.	Mike Nelson Global Vice President, Field CTO DigiCert Joern Lubadel Global Head of Product Security B. Braun Ali Youssef Director Emerging Technology Security Henry Ford Health Nathan Lesser Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer Children's National Hospital
3:40 PM to 4:20 PM: Toward A Cure for Healthcare Ransomware: Innovation and Impact This session explores UC San Diego Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity research envisioning a future where ransomware attacks become manageable disruptions, not catastrophes. By integrating innovative technologies—early warning systems and rapid response platforms—we can protect patients, reduce costs, and	Christian Dameff Co-Director, UCSD Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity University of California San Diego Jeff Tully Co-Director, UC San Diego Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity UC San Diego Health

		disrupt incentive structures empowering malicious actors while defending healthcare infrastructure.	
		4:30 PM to 5:00 PM: Closing Keynote: Robert Herjavec on the Future of Cybersecurity in Healthcare Close out the HIMSS26 Healthcare Cybersecurity Forum with Robert Herjavec, Shark Tank investor and cybersecurity entrepreneur. In this fireside chat, he'll share his take on today's evolving threat landscape, from cloud vulnerabilities and ransomware to AI-powered attacks. Robert will discuss practical habits for staying ready, how automation speeds up incident response, and ways to understand your risks without disrupting current operations.	Robert Herjavec Technology Innovator and Investor ABC's Shark Tank Richard Staynings Professor of Cybersecurity University of Denver
5-7pm	HIMSS26 Opening Reception *open to all attendees	Remarks from Hal Wolf, CEO, HIMSS on the focus of the HIMSS26 global conference and preview of keynote sessions. Attendees will also have the opportunity to interact and engage with a broad array of conference attendees, including government officials, thought leaders, and representatives from across the healthcare ecosystem. *no alcohol will be served to staff	Hal Wolf President and Chief Executive Officer HIMSS
7 - 9pm	Global Public Policy Welcome Reception	An evening of insightful conversations, networking, and collaboration with colleagues across the globe *no alcohol will be served to staff *widely attended event	
	Dinner break		

Tuesday, March 10th			
Time	**Title**	**Description**	**Speakers**
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Mastering Both Innovation and Scaling: Discover the Proven Algorithm for Success	In this fascinating presentation, McNeill – who led Tesla through a period of explosive growth, shares insights from his experiences and offers a deep dive into a proven method for accelerating innovation and scaling success. Through real-world examples, he unpacks the key steps of "the algorithm," why it works, and how organizations, across industries, have leveraged it. Attendees will walk away with a practical, actionable framework they can apply immediately within their organization to drive growth and turn bold ideas into reality.	Jon McNeill Former President of Tesla, Former COO of Lyft, CEO of DVx Ventures
10:15 AM to 11:15 AM Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Session: Stakeholder Governance Strategies for Ambient Artificial Intelligence Scribes: An Interactive Workshop	Ambient artificial intelligence (AI) Scribe applications are rapidly emerging technologies in healthcare environments, and healthcare organizations are currently piloting implementations. However, several questions have arisen from each of the key stakeholders. There is uncertainty regarding patient understanding, the need for frequent consent and reconsent, and privacy concerns. Clinicians are expressing hope for greater patient engagement during clinical encounters and reduced "pajama time," but are mindful of workflow disruptions and the potential inaccuracies and fallibility of generative AI. Similarly, information technologists recognize the need for validations, business rules and ongoing alignment with health IT strategy. However, many of these considerations have not yet been established, resulting in a lack of supporting documentation. The goal of this workshop is to collect practices utilized by healthcare organizations from the patient, clinician	Wendy Charles Assistant Professor, Health Informatics and Healthcare Management University of Denver Renée Pratt Faculty, Computer Science and Information Systems University of North Georgia Jack Crumbly Management Department Head and Faculty Andrew F. Brimmer College of Business and Information Science, Tuskegee University

		and information technologist perspectives, to formulate ambient AI scribe governance best practices for each.	
	Education Session: Smart Medication Management: Bridging Technology with Patient Understanding	Health literacy is a social determinate of health and low health literacy is a persistent barrier to effective care and safety, especially at discharge. This session showcases how one healthcare system improved health and medication literacy through a patient-centered education tool integrated into its electronic healthcare record. Attendees will learn how personalized, multilingual and standardized medication calendars using plain language, pictograms and clinical indications can help improve patient comprehension of their medication regimens and discharge readiness. The session highlights implementation lessons, training strategies and equity-focused design approaches that can be adapted by any healthcare system seeking to improve medication adherence, meet patients where they are, ensure patient safety and reduce disparities. Attendees will leave with clear strategies for embedding technology to aid health literacy into medication reconciliation and discharge workflows.	Greg O'Neill Director, Patient and Family Health Education ChristianaCare Kristen Callaghan Nursing Professional Development Specialist, Patient and Family Health Education ChristianaCare
	Education Session: Wait, I'm the Human in the Loop?	"Human in the loop" is everywhere in AI policy and vendor promises — but what does it actually mean when applied in healthcare? Too often, the label shifts risk onto clinicians and leaders without giving them the tools, context, or authority to act effectively. Meanwhile, the "learned intermediary" model raises similar questions: who carries responsibility, how is oversight documented, and when is it more symbolic than substantive? This session unpacks the real implications of HITL and learned	Julia Zarb Principal & Founder Blue x Blue Inc.

		intermediary models in healthcare AI. Using AI-generated reproductions of recent scenarios from operations, extreme weather and disaster repsone, we will explore when oversight empowers safe, explainable decisions — and when it risks becoming a liability handoff.	
11:30am - 12:30pm Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Session: Connecting Behavioral Health and Whole-Person Care in Georgia	Behavioral health does not exist in isolation—it is deeply intertwined with housing, employment, physical health, and social supports. Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN), the state's health information exchange serving 11 million residents, is transforming how behavioral health is delivered by connecting community service boards (CSBs), hospitals, and social services into a single interoperability framework. Through its Social Care Integration Initiative with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), GaHIN is building closed-loop referral systems, Smart-on-FHIR tools, and data exchange pathways that bridge clinical care with social determinants. This session will explore how GaHIN aligned state agencies, local providers, and technology vendors to deliver scalable, measurable solutions that improve access and continuity of care for individuals with behavioral health needs. Attendees will learn strategies for overcoming interoperability barriers, aligning stakeholders with different priorities, and embedding behavioral health into whole-person care models.	Denise Hines Executive Director GaHIN
	Education Session: Empowering Providers, Protecting Humanity: Leading Artificial Intelligence	As artificial intelligence (AI) reshapes healthcare—from documentation support to clinical decision-making—healthcare systems face a dual imperative: adopt innovation wisely and protect the human core of healthcare. Adopting innovation requires both organizational and	Kari Yacisin Physician University of New Mexico Nicole Capehart Lecturer, Organizational

Adoption in Healthcare Workplaces	individual change management. This workshop explores how healthcare organizations can navigate AI adoption while prioritizing provider well-being and the human core of clinical care. The workshop addresses key organizational, human resources (HR) and frontline provider considerations, offering a framework for developing inclusive AI policies, empowering providers to engage with AI tools critically, and fostering leadership that prioritizes humanity alongside innovation. With lessons from real-world case studies and HR/organizational behavior insights, attendees will learn how to: build and advocate for AI policies rooted in transparency, trust, and provider well-being; empower providers to question or adopt AI implementation; identify and address AI bias in workforce tools; and lead change with clarity in a burned-out, throughput-driven culture.	Behavior and Human Resources Anderson School of Management, University of New Mexico Meghan Brett Hospital Epidemiologist; Medical Director, Antimicrobial Stewardship; Associate Professor, Infectious Diseases University of New Mexico School of Medicine
Education Session: Will Artificial Intelligence Help or Hinder Advancing Sustainable Healthcare?	The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into healthcare presents both opportunities and risks for sustainability. This workshop will provide attendees with a nuanced understanding of how AI can either accelerate progress toward environmentally sustainable healthcare or exacerbate its carbon footprint. Through brief presentations and interactive activities, participants will explore: (1) the potential for AI to optimize clinical workflows, reduce waste and improve resource allocation; and (2) the energy and environmental costs of AI-driven healthcare systems, including the carbon footprint of model training and inference. The workshop will employ an inclusive and participatory design-thinking methodology, enabling attendees to contribute to the development of best practices for deploying AI sustainably	Chethan Sarabu Director, Clinical Innovation for the Health Tech Hub Cornell Tech Stefano Leitner Physician Informaticist Suki Manijeh Berenji Associate Clinical Professor UC Irvine

		in healthcare. A large-group activity will focus on assessing AI's sustainability impact across different healthcare domains such as radiology, digital documentation and predictive analytics. By the end of the session, participants will leave with practical frameworks for evaluating the environmental trade-offs of AI in healthcare and strategies for implementing AI in a way that aligns with decarbonization goals.	
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	HIMSS26 Exhibition Hall Open	Interact with leading healthcare technology companies to gain valuable insights into how innovations are transforming care delivery and improving outcomes across communities and care settings. Experience thousands of innovative products with hands-on and interactive demonstrations and learn from global thought leaders and experts on how technology is delivering better care for more people. *Staff will be provided a list of organizations represented from their states or districts, where applicable.	
1:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch Break		
2:15pm - 3:15pm Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Sessions: Global Progress Toward Digital Transformation in the Post-Pandemic Era	The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital health adoption worldwide, but how far have healthcare organizations actually progressed in their digital transformation journeys? This session presents comprehensive analysis from the HIMSS Office of Scientific Research, examining Digital Health Indicator (DHI) data from 253 healthcare organizations across 12 countries, revealing striking global patterns in digital maturity development. The research uncovers significant variations in digital readiness across regions, with notable differences between developed and developing healthcare systems. Most	Alexandra Wright Director, Research, Office of Scientific Research HIMSS

		remarkably, the data reveals that governance and workforce capacity consistently rank as the strongest digital health capability globally, while person-enabled health and predictive analytics lag significantly behind across all countries. Through analysis of interoperability, person-enabled health, predictive analytics and governance capabilities, this session examines what these patterns reveal about global digital health priorities and readiness. The findings highlight critical gaps where healthcare organizations worldwide are struggling to advance, particularly in patient engagement technologies and data-driven decision-making.	
	Education Sessions: Rural Case Management: Lowering Utilization and Healthcare Costs	Rural communities face unique healthcare hurdles. This session unveils a blueprint for advancing community health in these underserved areas, focusing on a Primary Care Case Management model. This approach effectively targets non-clinical drivers of health at the community level, empowering rural hospitals to lead local care coordination and unlocking new funding streams for managing both clinical and non-clinical needs. This session will explore the lessons learned and interim findings from Missouri's Transformation of Rural Community Health (ToRCH) pilot program, specifically designed to tackle the unique complexities of rural Medicaid populations. It will delve into the application of data-driven, community-based strategies to effectively manage chronic diseases, reduce disparities, and mitigate the impact of non-clinical drivers of health. Attendees will gain actionable insights and a clear roadmap for replicating this success to foster healthier, more resilient communities.	Kirk Mathews Chief Transformation Officer Mo HealthNet Marvin Smoot Vice President, Clinic Operations Bothwell Regional Health Center Dr. Halima Ahmadi-Montecalvo Vice President, Research and Evaluation Unite Us and Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington
	Education Session: Securing	Hospitals are increasingly reliant on a vast and diverse ecosystem of edge	Phil Curran Chief Information

	the Edge: Protecting Our Hospital	devices—ranging from mobile workstations and tablets to infusion pumps and diagnostic equipment. Yet, these devices often operate with limited oversight, outdated software and weak access controls, making them a prime target for attackers. In this session, we will share a comprehensive case study on how we tackled edge device vulnerabilities and reshaped our security posture from the ground up. Attendees will learn how we addressed these risks through device hardening, using customer information system baselines, network segmentation, identity and access management improvements, and passive vulnerability monitoring. .	Security Officer and Chief Privacy Officer Cooper University Health Care
Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:			
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Education Session: Innovating for Access: Real-World Strategies Advancing Healthcare System Resilience	This panel highlights how applied innovation can drive scalable, sustainable improvements in health outcomes by addressing upstream barriers to care referred to as social determinants of health. Drawing from work in veteran services, cancer care, broadband expansion and digital literacy, the session presents real-world strategies that integrate technology, policy and human-centered design. Panelists from academia, the nonprofit sector and digital health startups will share how their initiatives improve infrastructure, care coordination and patient engagement, offering actionable solutions to persistent system gaps.	Luis Belén Health Innovation Leader and Chief Executive Officer NHIT Collaborative for the Underserved Gabriela Mustata Wilson Educator University of Louisiana at Lafayette Rahul Mahadevan Founder and Chief Executive Officer The WiTT Group, Inc.
3:45 PM to 4:15 PM	Education Sessions: Building Trust and Confidence Through Better Healthcare Data Quality and Usability	Leveraging the Sequoia Project's Data Usability Workgroup Implementation Guide Version 2.0, released December 11, 2024, this session explores seven critical focus areas—from provenance and code use to reducing duplicates and ensuring data integrity—that directly underpin trustworthiness. Participants	Didi Davis Vice President, Informatics, Conformance and Interoperability The Sequoia Project

		will gain a roadmap to enhance systems and workflows through practical tech-agnostic guidance aligned with United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) version 3 and HL7® standards. We will dive into how the Data Usability Taking Root Community of Practice has leveraged structured provenance tracking, standardized coding, narrative linkage, lab interoperability and metadata tagging, which all contribute to data's integrity—and to the clinician and patient confidence it inspires.With USCDI version 3 adoption starting in 2026, plus growing expectations for data insight tools and artificial intelligence, there is no better time to build the foundation of trusted data.	
3:40 PM to 4:00 PM	Cybersecurity Command Center: Assessing data risks in the world of artificial intelligence	Using Generative A.I. tools may be beneficial in many areas of healthcare. However, using these tools comes with a possibility of substantial risks to data. With using any Generative A.I. within an organization, data is created at an exponential level and healthcare organizations should be aware of the risks involved with using these tools. Learn some of the risks and ways to approach assessing using Generative A.I. tools at this session.	Jerry McIver Director, Cyber Services and Data Privacy Officer Trustpoint.One
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Government Connections Plaza Opening Reception *optional, open to all attendees	Join us for the Government Connections Plaza Opening Reception and connect with fellow health information and technology thought leaders and policy influencers from around the globe * no alcohol will be served to staff	
	Dinner on own		

Wednesday, March 11th			
Time	**Title**	**Description**	Speakers

8:30am-9:30am	Scientific Excellence Meets Digital Innovation: Human-Centered Healthcare	Join Dr. Sumbul Ahmad Desai, Vice President of Health and Fitness at Apple and Clinical Associate Professor at Stanford, for an insightful fireside chat that explores how technology is revolutionizing healthcare, from individual wellness to clinical innovation, drawing on her background at the intersection of technology and health.	Ami Bhatt Chief Innovation Officer American College of Cardiology Sumbul Ahmad Desai Vice President, Health and Fitness Apple
9:45am - 10:45am Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Session: Accelerating Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy in Public Healthcare	Changi General Hospital (CGH), Singapore, launched a large-scale AI literacy programme to prepare staff for safe adoption of emerging AI tools. With generative AI platforms such as the national Pair platform and SingHealth's Tandem system gaining traction, CGH recognized that democratizing access required education rather than restrictions. This presentation will share methodology, partnership models, and lessons from scaling AI literacy across a major healthcare institution. Attendees will gain practical strategies for embedding AI education, designing governance frameworks for democratized access, and sustaining clinical excellence while embracing innovation.	Weien Chow Chief and Senior Consultant Cardiologist Changi General Hospital Narayan Venkataraman Deputy Director of Data Science and Intelligence Changi General Hospital Charlene Liew Doctor Changi General Hospital
	Education Session: Using Technology to Enhance Access to Youth Mental Healthcare	This session will present data from the East Carolina University's (ECU) Center for Telepsychiatry that serves children and adolescents using an approach that integrates primary and specialty care. Using pediatric clinics as the host sites helps remove the stigma associated with mental health, enhances compliance with appointments, and offers expert consultation support for busy and often overwhelmed pediatricians. Using virtual reality, the program has also created "NC Rural Kids Get Well," a 3-D community on the Roblox platform to serve three main	Sy Atezaz Saeed Founding Executive Director North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry

		purposes: education, peer support and surveillance. The program features an artificial intelligence-driven knowledge management online portal to enhance collaborations among different sites' healthcare providers; encourage family members' engagement in children's mental healthcare; discover innovative and customized mental health service approaches for rural children; and disseminate timely and relevant mental health knowledge to healthcare professionals, family members and local community partners.	
	Powering Innovation Together: Advancing State Health Policy Through Digital Transformation and Cross-Sector Collaboration	In a rapidly evolving state and local health landscape, innovative, evidence-informed solutions are essential. This session highlights how policy, collaboration, and digital transformation drive measurable improvement. State health leaders, policy professionals, and multi-sector innovators will examine integrated approaches that strengthen public health and modernize care delivery. We will showcase how states are applying rural health innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), interoperability, and cybersecurity to improve outcomes and advance equity. Speakers will also detail how industry partnerships accelerate innovation and reduce risk in statewide implementations.	Lonnie Edgar, Jr. Deputy Director Mississippi Joint Legislative PEER Committee Fabian Doñate State Senator, District 10 Nevada State Legislature Sameer Vohra Director Illinois Department of Public Health Bruce Greenstein Secretary of Health Louisiana Department of Health Kat McDavitt President & Founding Partner Innsena
11:00am - 12:00pm	Congressional Forum	The Congressional Forum is a lively panel discussion featuring key Congressional staffers on the digital	

Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:		health policy landscape and what we can expect from the legislative agenda in 2026. This session will look at the pressing issues facing lawmakers and what opportunities exist with a divided Congress to pass meaningful legislation that will advance the U.S. health system transformation.	
	Industry Solutions Session: Interoperability Makes the World Go Round	Interop is a major health policy initiative globally, it is a key investment area for most in the MedTech and HIT space, and it is a still a major challenge. Why and how can we move forward effectively?	Madhu Narasimhan Chief Information Officer DaVita Kevin Larsen Senior Vice President, Clinical Innovation Optum Haim Goudel Senior Technologist Medtronic Alex MacLeod Head of Healthcare Solutions Support InterSystems
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch Break		
12:30pm-1:30pm	HIMSS26 Exhibition Hall Open	Interact with leading healthcare technology companies to gain valuable insights into how innovations are transforming care delivery and improving outcomes across communities and care settings. Experience thousands of innovative products with hands-on and interactive demonstrations and learn from global thought leaders and experts on how technology is delivering better care for more people. *Staff will be provided a list of organizations represented from	

		their states or districts, where applicable.	
2:00pm - 3:00pm Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Session: Statewide Approach for Addressing Health Related Social Needs	This session will share the results of a statewide public/private partnership to address health related social needs in Pennsylvania. The presenter will share the key learnings on how engagement with healthcare providers, community-based organizations and the state's departments yielded the successful rollout of the program. The presenter will also describe the methods that were used to maintain that engagement over the long term, describing the importance of using standard code mappings from the Gravity Project® to aggregate data in a meaningful way. The presentation will include current usage statistics that show the impact that the statewide approach has had on communities within Pennsylvania and it will provide meaningful lessons learned that other states and organizations can employ to successfully implement a program in their communities.	Keith Cromwell Senior Director, Ambulatory Applications and Epic Connect Penn Medicine
	Education Sessions: Leveraging Digital Health Integration to Advance Military Medicine	Learn how the Military Health System is leveraging Health Informatics, and enterprise coordination to implement new technology to improve health outcomes and the patient and provider experience.	Tracy Farrill Director, Digital Health Integration Office Defense Health Agency Tara Conner Chief Health Informatics Officer Defense Health Agency
3:15pm - 4:15pm	From Silos to Sustainability : Driving Financial Transformation Through System-Wide Integration	As healthcare systems face unprecedented financial and operational pressures, Hackensack Meridian Health Network developed and implemented a bold, systemwide Clinical Integration and Financial Sustainability model designed to drive clinical, operational and financial performance, reduce unwarranted variation, and improve value-based outcomes. This session will	Elham Yousef Vice President & Chief Clinical Integration Hackensack Meridian Health Michael Allen President, Financial Services

		showcase how HMHN built a scalable, governance-driven framework that integrates clinical standardization, real-time analytics and operational accountability across all care settings to drive clinical excellence and ensure long-term financial sustainability. The model embeds clinical decision support, performance dashboards and cost-monitoring tools into workflows—enabling a projected annual return on investment that exceeds $150 million through cost variation reduction, imaging and level of service optimization, and enhanced revenue cycle performance. The session will provide actionable strategies to align clinical, operational and financial leadership, build accountability and leverage digital infrastructure to support continuous performance improvement.	Division and Chief Financial Officer Hackensack Meridian Health
3:30 PM to 4:00 PM Concurrent Education Sessions, staffers will choose from one of the following sessions:	Education Session: Rural Population Health: Data Insights Drive Enhanced Outcomes and Cost Savings	Rural healthcare organizations face distinct challenges in providing high-quality, accessible care to aging and geographically dispersed populations. Addressing these challenges requires integrated, patient-centered and data-driven strategies that go beyond traditional models to consider both clinical needs and social determinants of health. This session highlights how one rural healthcare system implemented a successful population health program that improved quality metrics, expanded preventive care, reduced hospital readmissions and increased revenue. The session will also explore how technology and data analytics enhance decision-making and financial allocation, even in resource-limited settings. Participants will leave equipped with practical strategies for strengthening care team collaboration, fostering deeper patient relationships and achieving better long-term outcomes.	Holly Davis Chief Nursing Officer Bingham Healthcare

	Education Session: Value-Based Care Pioneer Shares Its Secrets	As value-based care (VBC) expands, healthcare systems must reimagine how they coordinate care, especially in post-acute environments. This session will showcase how a regional academic healthcare system, under the leadership of its population health director, transformed its VBC performance by redesigning post-acute workflows, investing in predictive data analytics and driving deeper collaboration with skilled nursing facilities. Together with a regulatory expert from the health-technology sector, this session will explore what's next, including how federal programs like the AHEAD model and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandatory Transforming Episode Accountability Model may reshape care delivery and reimbursement models. Attendees will walk away with tactical insights and measurable results from a healthcare system that achieved a 32 percent reduction in skilled nursing facilities'-related readmissions in just two years.	Lafe Bauer Vice President, Post-Acute Services University of Maryland Medical System Robin Roberts Director, Health IT Regulatory Affairs PointClickCare
4:00 PM to 4:30 PM	Exhibition Demo: AI Agents, Real Results: Faster, Safer Patient Interactions	Poor experiences—from scheduling to billing to simple questions—erode trust in healthcare providers. Agentic AI changes that by resolving issues quickly and consistently, with automation built for scale plus enterprise-grade security and compliance.	George Downey Conversational AI Consultant NiCE Cognigy
5pm-6:30pm	Patient ID Now HIMSS26 Happy Hour *optional, open to all attendees * no alcohol will be served to staff		
	Dinner break		
6:40pm 9:40pm 11:59am	Matthew Thomas departs LAS UA1291 Matthew Thomas arrives DEN UA 1291 Matthew Thomas departs DEN UA1924		

Thursday, March 12th			
Time	**Title**	**Description**	**Speakers**
5:17am	Matthew Thomas arrives IAD UA1924		