

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

19

OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF INDIANA

Insert after section 713 the following new section:

1 **SEC. 713A. COMPREHENSIVE ENTERPRISE INTEROPER-**
2 **ABILITY STRATEGY FOR THE ARMED FORCES**
3 **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
4 **FAIRS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
6 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the office
7 established by section 1635(b) of the Wounded Warrior
8 Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 10 U.S.C. 1071
9 note), shall jointly develop and implement a comprehensive
10 interoperability strategy to—

11 (1) improve the delivery of health care by the
12 Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Af-
13 fairs by taking advantage of advances in the health
14 information technology marketplace;

15 (2) achieve interoperability capabilities that are
16 more adaptable and farther reaching than those
17 achievable through bidirectional information ex-
18 change between electronic health records or the ex-
19 change of read-only data alone;

1 (3) establish an environment that will enable
2 and encourage the adoption of innovative tech-
3 nologies for health care delivery;

4 (4) leverage data integration to advance health
5 research and develop an evidence base for the health
6 care programs of both Departments;

7 (5) prioritize open systems architecture;

8 (6) ensure ownership and control by patients of
9 their health data;

10 (7) protect patient privacy and enhance oppor-
11 tunities for innovation by preventing contractors of
12 the Departments or other non-Department entities
13 from owning or exclusively controlling patient health
14 data;

15 (8) make maximum use of open-application pro-
16 gram interfaces and the Fast Healthcare Interoper-
17 ability Resources standard, or successor standard;
18 and

19 (9) achieve—

20 (A) a single lifetime longitudinal personal
21 health record between the Armed Forces and
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

23 (B) interoperability capabilities sufficient
24 to enable the provision of seamless health care
25 relating to—

1 (i) the Armed Forces and private-sec-
2 tor health care providers under the
3 TRICARE program; and

4 (ii) the Department of Veterans Af-
5 fairs and community health care providers
6 pursuant to sections 1703 and 1703A of
7 title 38, United States Code, and other
8 provisions of law administered by the Sec-
9 retary of Veterans Affairs.

10 (b) CONTENT.—The strategy under subsection (a)
11 shall—

12 (1) include, but shall not be limited to, the
13 Electronic Health Record Modernization Program
14 and the Healthcare Management System Moderniza-
15 tion Program of the Armed Forces; and

16 (2) consist of—

17 (A) elements formulated and implemented
18 jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
19 retary of Veterans Affairs; and

20 (B) elements that are unique to either De-
21 partment and are formulated and implemented
22 separately by either Secretary.

23 (c) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGY.—

24 (1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director

1 shall submit to each Secretary concerned, and to the
2 appropriate congressional committees, the strategy
3 under subsection (a), including any accompanying or
4 associated implementation plans and supporting in-
5 formation.

6 (2) UPDATED STRATEGY.—Not later than De-
7 cember 31, 2024, the Director shall submit to each
8 Secretary concerned, and to the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees, an update to the strategy under
10 subsection (a), including any accompanying or asso-
11 ciated implementation plans and supporting infor-
12 mation.

13 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretaries concerned
14 shall make available to the public the strategy sub-
15 mitted under paragraphs (1) and (2), including by
16 posting such strategy on the internet websites of the
17 Secretaries that is available to the public.

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees” means the following:

21 (A) The congressional defense committees.

22 (B) The Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
23 of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
24 ate.

1 (2) The term “Director” means the Director of
2 the office established by section 1635(b) of the
3 Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law
4 110–181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

5 (3) The term “Electronic Health Record Mod-
6 ernization Program” has the meaning given that
7 term in section 503 of the Veterans Benefits and
8 Transition Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–407; 132
9 Stat. 5376).

10 (4) The term “interoperability” means the abil-
11 ity of different information systems, devices, or ap-
12 plications to connect in a coordinated and secure
13 manner, within and across organizational bound-
14 aries, across the complete spectrum of care, includ-
15 ing all applicable care settings, and with relevant
16 stakeholders, including the person whose information
17 is being shared, to access, exchange, integrate, and
18 use computable data regardless of the data’s origin
19 or destination or the applications employed, and
20 without additional intervention by the end user, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) the capability to reliably exchange in-
23 formation without error;

24 (B) the ability to interpret and to make ef-
25 fective use of the information so exchanged; and

1 (C) the ability for information that can be
2 used to advance patient care to move between
3 health care entities, regardless of the technology
4 platform in place or the location where care was
5 provided.

6 (5) The term “seamless health care” means
7 health care which is optimized through access by pa-
8 tients and clinicians to integrated, relevant, and
9 complete information about the patient’s clinical ex-
10 periences, social and environmental determinants of
11 health, and health trends over time in order to en-
12 able patients and clinicians to move from task to
13 task and encounter to encounter, within and across
14 organizational boundaries, such that high-quality de-
15 cisions may be formed easily and complete plans of
16 care may be carried out smoothly.

17 (6) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

18 (A) the Secretary of Defense, with respect
19 to matters concerning the Department of De-
20 fense;

21 (B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with
22 respect to matters concerning the Department
23 of Veterans Affairs; and

24 (C) the Secretary of Homeland Security,
25 with respect to matters concerning the Coast

1 Guard when it is not operating as a service in
2 the Department of the Navy.

3 (7) The term “TRICARE program” has the
4 meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10,
5 United States Code.

