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HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAIN (HSCA) STATEMENT ON HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTEROPERABILITY AND PATIENT ACCESS TO RECORDS

Washington, DC (September 16, 2015) – Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) President and CEO Todd Ebert today released the following statement about health information technology (HIT) interoperability and electronic health records (EHR) in connection with Wednesday’s Senate HELP Committee hearing, [*Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology: Improving Care Through Patient Access to Their Records*](#):

“We applaud the Senate HELP Committee for their ongoing attention to health information technology (HIT) policy issues that are vital to patient care. Advances in HIT, including data interoperability and electronic health records (EHR), are driving a revolution in patient care and health outcomes. For healthcare providers to administer first-class patient care – and for patients to effectively engage in their own care – they must have access to vital patient and device data that are currently “locked” in system silos across the healthcare supply chain.

“Comprehensive EHRs with data that are accessible and interoperable across systems – and operating under appropriate privacy safeguards – will allow providers and patients to see a complete patient health picture and have access to all applicable information when making critical care decisions. As Congress continues to examine key HIT policy issues, we encourage them to support the development of interoperability standards that require open source codes in order to enable the secure exchange of important patient information among health care systems.”

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association is a broad-based trade association representing 14 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HSCA’s mission is to advocate on behalf of healthcare group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs and their provider customers. For more information, visit www.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter [@HSCA](https://twitter.com/HSCA).