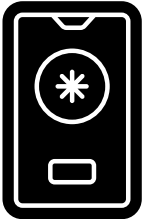# Wearable Health Tech Keeps Users Safe and Healthy

As Congress continues to promote value-based healthcare and put patients back in control of their health, the Connected Health Initiative urges Members to advance H.R. 6279, the Wearable Equipment Adoption and Reinvestment in Technology Act (WEAR IT Act). This bill would clarify that wearable health devices and associated software are eligible for reimbursement through flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). These devices have many uses in the detection, mitigation, treatment, and prevention of health conditions. HSAs and FSAs already generally cover wearable devices with single functions like electrocardiogram (EKG) monitors, pulse oximeters, and heart rate monitors. But last year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) deemed two multi-function wearables eligible for FSA and HSA, and Congress must ensure it covers the full scope of wearable health technology. Multi-function wearables routinely catch critical and previously undetected conditions and even save American lives. These individual stories illustrate that the WEAR IT Act is long overdue.

Raylene Hackenwerth, a resident of **Saint Petersburg, Florida**, credits her Apple Watch with saving her life. In 2022, Raylene took a hard fall and was nearly knocked unconscious. Her Apple Watch, which she used to help her track workouts, detected her catastrophic fall and alerted her son and the paramedics. With her precise location, paramedics were able to find her and transport her to the hospital. While she was there, doctors found a cancerous mass in her lungs. So not only did the Apple Watch help her get emergency treatment, but its help also led to the discovery of a much more serious condition. See more of Raylene's story here: Apple Watch fall detection helped find lung cancer, 2022

"It sends the geolocation, the latitude and longitude, so I would say it's a pretty useful feature," said Joshua Stevens, one of the paramedics who responded to Mrs. Hackenwerth's call.

The feature works by intelligently detecting when a sudden fall occurs, automatically calling emergency services if the person doesn't dismiss the alert within one minute of falling. If the person's emergency contact information is filled out, that contact will be notified with a text message and a map of the watch's location at the time of the fall.

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