The DOD and VA Medical Records Boondoggle

It's very difficult to connect medical record systems. Case in point: The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have spent $1 billion trying to connect their two systems. They failed completely. Now the Defense Department is seeking an $11 billion contract to make it happen. But it's unlikely. The small country of England scrapped their plans for a national EHR system after spending $16 billion.

Now a bill in Congress proposes to give a $50 million prize to whomever integrates the two systems. Since it's already proven impossible and enables sweeping privacy violations, why is Congress also trying to mandate a national medical records system for all Americans?


“Scrapped national EHR program will cost U.K. billions.” Maria Durben Hirsch, FierceEMR, August 26, 2013.