



Physicians Caring for Texans

**Senate Health and Human Services Committee**  
**Senate Bill 1467 by Sen. Kelly Hancock**  
**Testimony by David Gerber, MD, on behalf of**  
**Texas Medical Association**  
*April 12, 2023*

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Chair Kolkhorst and committee members, my name is Dr. David Gerber, and I am a medical oncologist from Dallas and have been in practice for 16 years. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Texas Medical Association in support of Senate Bill 1467.

As an oncologist, I've had many conversations with patients about their test results. It is always a confusing and scary time for patients, as the results can truly be life-changing. Oncologists are trained to convey this information in a timely, informative, and supportive manner so patients understand not only what the test means but what options they have. This is our opportunity to offer the patient hope and reassurance.

But new federal laws requiring the immediate release of all test results to patient portals means patients receive this information in a way that is not carefully explained, and without support. This can result in confused and potentially traumatized patients. I have had patients learn they have cancer:

- From a smartphone notification in the middle of a business dinner;
- While reading a bedtime story to a 3-year-old child; and
- During a rush-hour commute.

And one patient's wife had to go to the emergency room for treatment of an anxiety attack after reading her husband's CT scan report, only to learn later the scan actually showed the cancer treatment was working. Even when the news is good, many medical test results are just too complex to be clear.

It is important patients receive their test results as quickly as possible. Although the bill places a brief pause on the electronic transfer of some test results to a patient, the bill allows a physician to call a patient with the results at any time. We are not seeking to withhold important information from patients. Rather, we are seeking to deliver the information the best way we can.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 1467. I am happy to answer any questions.